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Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-013 *20 January 1995*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

'Arafat, Rabin Discuss 'Hot Issues' at Erez Crossing

JN1901121695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian-Israeli summit began a short while ago at the Erez crossing in the northern Gaza Strip.

President Yasir 'Arafat will discuss with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin a number of hot issues, the most prominent of which are the settlements, the Palestinian prisoners, and the Israeli Army's withdrawal from the occupied West Bank.

News Conference Held After Talks

TA1901142495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1327 GMT 19 Jan 95

[News conference by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at the Erez checkpoint following their meeting—live; italicized passages in English with superimposed translation into Hebrew; transcribed from English]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Rabin] *Mr. Chairman, your colleagues, Mr. Foreign Minister, my Israeli colleagues, ladies and gentlemen of the press: We met today in a crucial moment. The papers are full by complaints on both sides, but we decided not to focus on detailed complaints but to reaffirm our commitment to the DOP [Declaration of Principles] and to the implementation of its second phase, after the implementation of Gaza and Jericho.*

We discussed, in small group, the main elements of the second phase that includes five elements: security, elections, redeployment, questions which are related to transfer of authorities, and economic matters. Agreement on these five issues will be able to start the implementation of the second phase of the DOP.

To prevent any misunderstanding, I informed the chairman about decisions related to settlements and land in the territories, decisions that were made by the government of Israel in 1992, when we took over, and I quote the decisions that were made by the Government of Israel: First, to freeze all the decisions of former Governments of Israel about new settlements in the territories, and we froze them; second, to make sure that we will not allow—beyond what was agreed then about buildings that were built—that government money will be spent for housing in the territories; three, that there will be no confiscation of land for housing in the territories; four, that government money will not be given in case of private building within existing settlements in certain number; and of course, the fifth—that came about after the DOP—that during the period of interim arrangement, no settlement will be uprooted.

I informed that all the stories about confiscation of land lately were made only to build bypass roads—four roads—in preparation of the implementation of the second phase of the DOP; to prevent friction; to have bypass of Tulkarm; to have bypass of Ramallah to the Israelis; and by that to make—once we will implement the second phase—more secure, without friction. No land was confiscated for building houses or anything of this kind.

I believe that also we have agreed that there will be a meeting next week between the Palestinian Authority [PA] representatives and our special ministers' committee about release of prisoners. We have agreed to facilitate transfer of commodities, goods from Egypt to the Gaza Strip, and some other matters in the economic field.

But the main point that I would like to stress: There are difficulties. The Israelis are bothered by the terror, the Palestinians by the settlements and land. We have to focus on the continuation of negotiations to implement what we are committed to: the DOP; to bring about elections; to bring about transfer of authority; to make sure that security will prevail, because terror is the main obstacle from our point of view on the way to achieve what we believe will bring a beginning of the end of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. This is our purpose, to this we are committed, to this we offer to work together. Thank you very much.

['Arafat] *I am very happy to have this meeting; especially, I have traveled already from Morocco, via Algeria and via Tunisia, to arrive in the accurate time to have this meeting with [words indistinct]. We have very, very important discussion on all the issues, which the prime minister has mentioned. What is important for us is how to continue in the implementation of the DOP—the second stage—accurately, honestly. And, in the same time, we can understand, as I have mentioned before, your needs for security and definitely, at the same time, our needs to have very soon what had been agreed upon to be implemented. What had been mentioned is very important, and we hope that next week, starting from Monday or Sunday, directly the meetings of the joint committees to start discussing all these matters. Thank you again for your attention for what we [words indistinct].*

[Qol Yisra'el correspondent Shlomo Raz] Mr. Prime Minister, you referred to the issues you discussed: security, elections, redeployment, transfer of powers, and economic issues. Did you work out an agenda for these issues? Did you go into more specific details about redeployment, such as the locations where the redeployment will take place?

[Rabin] We did not go into details beyond general principles, without mentioning maps or locations or anything like that. In the previous meeting between the foreign minister and Chairman 'Arafat, it was agreed that these subjects would be discussed at the level of the political leadership on both sides and that they would not be discussed publicly before agreement was reached. We are only at the start of the road, except with regard to

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the election issue, which was discussed separately in Cairo, and I believe the deliberations on that issue will continue in Cairo next week.

[Unidentified CNN correspondent] *Mr. Chairman, are you satisfied with what you heard from Prime Minister Rabin?*

['Arafat] *What is important, as we have mentioned together, that we had discussed deeply this point of the confiscation of land and the new settlements, which [words indistinct] and we hope that we will continue coordinating in this matter because [words indistinct].*

[Unidentified correspondent] *Is that yes or no?*

['Arafat] *Somewhere in between.*

[Unidentified NBC correspondent, in Arabic] [Indistinct question]

['Arafat, in Arabic] As I said, we did not discuss anything specific. We decided that the committee will meet and discuss this issue in detail at the appropriate time.

[Unidentified ABC correspondent] *What kind of security guarantees are you demanding for redeployment from President 'Arafat. Security is a wide issue, but what do you want precisely?*

[Rabin] *We don't need guarantees; we need the uprooting of terror. I don't pretend that under our control—let's say today in the West Bank—there is no terror. We would like to see real efforts being done against terror by us and by the PA. Therefore, we are not asking about guarantees; we are asking to create conditions and cooperation that will reduce terror. I wish that we can reduce it considerably because, as I said before, for the Israelis—and I can speak only in the name of the Israelis—terror is the main obstacle.*

['Arafat] *We are doing all our best, as I have mentioned clearly. We can understand their needs for security, but at such times, I have not a magic stick. But we will do all our best, and we are doing all our best. We have a lot to discuss together and to coordinate together in this time.*

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, did you and the head of the PA discuss the release of additional Palestinian prisoners? Are there any concrete promises?

[Rabin] As is known, we freed 5,000 in accordance with the agreement. The Palestinians claim that is not the precise figure, but that is our view, and we are prepared to sit down and discuss it with them. The Cairo agreement speaks about considering the release of additional prisoners. A meeting will be held between the ministerial committee dealing with the issue and the PA representatives in Cairo next week.

[Unidentified Qol Yisra'el correspondent, in Arabic] [Indistinct question]

['Arafat, in Arabic] Yes, this was one of the main issues that we discussed today. God willing, the joint committee will meet. The Israeli side will be represented by three ministers. Our side, too, will be represented by [words indistinct], and they will follow up this issue from the beginning of next week. They will discuss the rate for the release of a large number of prisoners. As far as we are concerned, this is a sensitive issue.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Welcomes U.S. Stand on Jerusalem

NC1901155595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1512 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Jan (MENA)—The Arab League Secretariat General has welcomed the U.S. refusal to move its embassy in Israel to Jerusalem. In a statement issued today, the Secretariat says this stance reflects Washington's adherence to the UN resolutions in this regard. It appeals to the U.S. Administration to also adhere to the UN resolutions on the settlements and to call on Israel to dismantle the existing settlements because they are an obstacle to peace.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher recently announced that the Clinton Administration will not move its embassy to Jerusalem and will not take measures that would obstruct negotiations over Jerusalem.

The Arab League Secretariat General affirmed that the U.S. adherence to its stand will help solve the issue of the settlements, despite its complications, explaining that leaving this issue unresolved will not serve the march of peace, which the Arab nation has accepted.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 3 Jan

NC1601115595

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 3 January edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

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3. Writer Laments Mubarak 'Regime' Behavior in 'Adil Husayn Case
4. Column Expresses Support For 'Adil Husayn, Demands Freedom
5. Popular Conference To Be Held in Support of 'Adil Husayn
6. Labor Party Executive Committee Issues Statement on Husayn Arrest

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7. Lawyer Initiates Case To Compensate Torture Victims' Kin
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12. Yemeni Official Criticizes Absence of Arab Unity Against Israel
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AL-AKHBAR COLUMNIST AMIN DEMANDS OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON HUSAYN

The 3 January edition of AL-SHA'B is again almost entirely devoted to reports on and reactions to Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn's remand in custody. Page 1 features many columns and articles on this issue. Mustafa Amin's "An Idea" column, which appeared in AL-AKHBAR newspaper of 30 December 1994, is reprinted in full on page 1. In this 350-word column, Amin condemns the remand in custody of 'Adil Husayn and demands "an official statement about the allegations" against Husayn. He says: "An attack on one journalist is an attack on the whole nation and on anyone who carries a pen in this country." He reviews the history of the freedom—or absence of it—of publication and speech in Egypt. He condemns Husayn's mistreatment in prison. Amin notes that "Husayn's crime is that they found leaflets at his seat on a plane—a charge that is currently being investigated." He maintains that all journalists in Egypt receive leaflets attacking the government, either through the mail or otherwise. He concludes: "If these rules were applied to journalists in Egypt, they would all be put in prison."

WRITER LABELS MUBARAK 'TYRANT' FOR TREATMENT OF 'ADIL HUSAYN

Majdi Ahmad Husayn contributes a 2,500-word article on pages 1 and 2 entitled "Human Rights Between the Eras of Faruq and Mubarak," condemning the government measures against 'Adil Husayn. He opens his article by claiming that this case "is a dangerous development by any standard and an escalation that threatens to destroy the roots of democratic life." He notes that democratic freedom in Egypt remains deficient, as evidenced "by the closing of some newspapers (SAWT AL-'ARAB, AL-DA'WAH, MISR AL-FATAH), and by the breaking of pens, contrary to the slogan used throughout President Mubarak's time." After giving examples of journalists who have been mistreated, the author says: "But today, the repression of 'Adil Husayn oversteps a new red line," because the authorities deliberately displayed him in public wearing torn clothes, as if they want to teach every other writer a lesson. He goes on: "I do not write anything these days, except with my prison bag packed and right next to me." Majdi Ahmad Husayn explains that the repressing of 'Adil Husayn "is an attempt to destroy the concept of democracy in this country, where it has been turned into a lifeless corpse in the cells of the regime's prisons. All ideas and free pens are now locked up together with 'Adil Husayn in the same coop under the ground in Tura prison."

The author then discusses the upcoming elections in Egypt, which he believes cannot take place. "The only other course of action is popular resistance against these elections, which has already started," he notes. He criticizes Mubarak for his part in persecuting Husayn: "Everyone in Egypt knows that what is happening to 'Adil Husayn is being done upon instructions from the president, which the ministers then execute." He explains that "the president has not left a single responsible official near him who has any privileges. These officials can be labeled as the 'last to know anything,'" including the prime minister and the interior minister.

Majdi Ahmad Husayn asks the president to stop this degrading situation immediately, because he is the greatest loser from all of this, "unless the objective is to push the country to the brink of crisis." Husayn then gives examples of political prisoners under King Faruq and other Egyptian rulers who were treated respectfully and well, though they might have been executed or condemned to life in prison. He notes that the Labor Party's congress to be held tomorrow, "is not a Labor Party congress, nor is it for solidarity with 'Adil Husayn; it is a congress for the whole of Egypt, for solidarity with Egypt and its people. It is a resounding cry in which we tell all tyrants: We shall not be humiliated; we shall not be slaves from now on. Our mothers bore us free, so let us all rise together and forever stop the crime of human rights' violations on this pure land." He concludes by comforting 'Adil Husayn with Koranic verses on God's support for those who fight for His religion.

WRITER LAMENTS MUBARAK 'REGIME' BEHAVIOR IN 'ADIL HUSAYN CASE

Muhammad 'Abbas authors a 5,000-word article on page 7 entitled "Patience 'Adil Husayn, Heaven Awaits You," in which he primarily laments the state of the country and of a government that would do such a thing as take someone like 'Adil Husayn into custody. He notes that media around the world, including the U.S. and European media, have been reporting extensively on the event, but the Egyptian media "have not said a word." He believes that had 'Adil Husayn been a corrupt person, had he bought and sold Egypt, this would not have happened. "Can the security forces, using all their might, central security commands, and weapons, arrest the sons of ranking officials, about whose corruption the papers have recently been writing?" 'Abbas asks. He wishes the authorities had found something valuable to keep them occupied, something not embarrassing, instead of "the very thing that 'Adil Husayn was fighting against."

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'Abbas sings 'Adil Husayn's praises and then laments that "he lies alone on the asphalt floor of a toilet in the prisons of President Husni Mubarak's regime only because he opposes Mubarak's policies, despite the fact that this regime professes before the rest of the world to be democratic and to protect human rights." He accuses the regime of not believing in democracy.

The writer then proceeds to advise Mubarak on how he should behave toward the men around him. He tells him to ask them how they "fake charges and pin accusations. You will hear a torrent of their proud confessions." He advises the president's departments to heed 'Adil Husayn's advice on economic and other matters, such as his warnings during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. 'Abbas expresses fear that the official newspapers will soon publish unfounded reports about Husayn's collusion with Sudan's al-Bashir to write what he wrote, "or even in return for $10,000 sent to him by the CIA through their agent Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, and that he is also charged with planning to blow up the Security Council." He wonders whether the government would hand Husayn over to be tried in the United States, or even in Israel. 'Abbas quotes the reaction of a friend of his who believes that "had the United States or Israel ruled us, someone of 'Adil Husayn's caliber would not have been arrested, and if they did arrest him, they would not pin false charges on him, nor treat him so humiliatingly."

'Abbas reviews the situation in the Third World countries, where the governments that have emerged have become worse than the colonialists before independence, "and who are no longer competent, not because of any personal defect but because they lost identity with their homeland and their affiliations and no longer have the same feelings as their compatriots or see things through their compatriots' eyes." He compares the 'Adil Husayn case to an "internal Lockerbie" where the logic of both accusers is one and the same. He believes that "we have been infiltrated, or rather, our elite have been infiltrated" by Washington or Jerusalem, who are ruling them indirectly. 'Abbas cites Shamir's statement that: "The stands of Israel, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia on Islamic fundamentalism are one stand. One stand! One stand, o 'Adil Husayn. The stand of the authorities in Egypt on you is the same as Israel's. So be patient. Your date is in heaven."

After describing the blood-thirsty regimes in some Arab countries, such as Egypt and Saudi Arabia, he states that "if we give some thought to who might be president of the republic instead of President Mubarak, 'Adil Husayn would be first in line." He remarks that what is now happening to 'Adil Husayn is a small part of a huge system, of which we see only the tip. "What they want at the level of the Arab and Islamic worlds is not to have any country or force capable of lifting its head before the United States or Israel, or of even thinking of saying no," he says. They do not want any competent and capable opposition, which is what 'Adil Husayn was, and therefore, must be eliminated, 'Abbas adds. The new world order necessarily stipulates that people like him should not exist. They are killing the most noble among us, the bravest, and the most honorable, and with this same logic, they have torn apart the Arab and Islamic nations, and turned us into easy prey for our enemies, 'Abbas grieves.

'Abbas concludes his article by defending President Mubarak. He remarks that one must understand that President Mubarak—despite our differences with him—supports his nation, not its enemies, and that "proceeding from logic, 'Adil Husayn is one of his strongest assets." The writer, however, also asks Mubarak to "investigate those who have involved him in such a case."

COLUMN EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR 'ADIL HUSAYN, DEMANDS FREEDOM

Muhammad al-Quddus writes a 200-word column on page 9 entitled "With Freedom, With 'Adil Husayn" in which he maintains that 'Adil Husayn is the dividing line between "truth and allegation." He notes: "'Adil Husayn has once again become a compass pointing in two directions: Justice ahead, and injustice behind." He says that true fighters for freedom of opinion are few, but those who pretend are many. With 'Adil Husayn's arrest, the pretenders have been revealed, al-Quddus says.

POPULAR CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN SUPPORT OF 'ADIL HUSAYN

On page one Al-SHA'B has a 150-word report announcing that a popular conference will be held on Wednesday afternoon [4 January] to express solidarity with Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn and "to confront the fierce onslaught of the security forces against freedom." The report notes the place, date, and time of the conference, as well as all those who will address it.

LABOR PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ISSUES STATEMENT ON HUSAYN ARREST

Also on page one is a report on an emergency meeting of the Labor Party's executive committee to discuss "the fierce attack on freedom and on the Labor Party, represented in the indiscriminate measures to which Labor Party Secretary General Dr. 'Adil Husayn, the renowned writer, is being subjected." The report says: "The executive committee confirms that it does not view this dangerous incident as isolated from the regime's intentions to eliminate the limited democratic margin represented in freedom of expression through the party papers." The committee believes this is a warning to every free or opposition voice that it could be subjected to the same fate. The committee holds President Mubarak responsible for 'Adil Husayn's time in prison. The executive committee confirms: "These oppressive and indiscriminate measures will not break the determination of the party or divert it from its Islamic and national course. They will not stop its campaigns against

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corruption and the corrupt, or make it retreat from its course of jihad to preserve the independence of the homeland, freedom of the nation, or its right to offer the people a dignified life. The party will not cease its opposition to tyranny, subjugation, and weakness by the enemies of the nation."

The executive committee announces that it will be in permanent session until victory triumphs. It salutes the parties, forces, writers, and others who have taken a principled stand on solidarity. The committee asks all Party committees in all parts of the republic to continue organizing campaigns to save 'Adil Husayn in every legal and legitimate way possible.

LAWYER INITIATES CASE TO COMPENSATE TORTURE VICTIMS' KIN

A short 50-word report on page 1 notes that Lawyer 'Abd-al-Halim Ramadan has filed a case demanding financial compensation for the families of martyrs who died under torture. He also demands the immediate release of 'Adil Husayn.

LAWYER SEEKS INVESTIGATION INTO HUSAYN DETENTION CONDITIONS

A 500-word report on pages 1 and 6 says that Lawyer Mahfuz 'Azzam has submitted a report to the prosecutor general asking him to investigate the treatment of 'Adil Husayn, such as physical violations and crimes committed against him in prison. 'Azzam's report highlights 'Adil Husayn's deteriorating physical condition and stresses that he needs intensive medical attention. The report notes that though the investigating prosecution representative recommended that 'Adil Husayn be moved from the cell he is currently in, this has not been done yet.

JOURNALISTS PROPOSE HUSAYN FOR DOYEN, CONTINUE SIT-IN

A 100-word report on page 1 notes that a number of journalists have proposed nominating 'Adil Husayn as doyen of journalists in the elections to be held in March. Majdi Muhannna announced this proposal, and then he and four other members of the council declared they were going on strike in support of 'Adil Husayn. The freedoms' committee held a conference in support of 'Adil Husayn, after which many journalists supported the proposal on 'Adil Husayn's nomination and welcomed it as an opportunity for journalists to express their stand on this aggression, which humiliates journalists.

Another 100-word report on pages 1 and 6 says that journalists are continuing their sit-in for the eighth day to show solidarity with 'Adil Husayn. They have even threatened to go on a hunger strike if he is harmed again.

On page 2 AL-SHA'B publishes the 100-word text of a statement by the journalists on strike in protest against 'Adil Husayn's detention, in which they announce total rejection of the Interior Ministry's statement accusing them and all other honest journalists in the country of agentry and mercenary behavior. The statement "confirms that what the State Security Investigations have done against the great writer and the humiliating treatment they have given him is the ultimate in human rights' violations in Egypt." They challenge the Interior Ministry to allow a fact-finding committee from the human rights' organizations to visit Husayn and listen to what he has to say, as well as to check the medical reports and analyses regarding his health. They ask the current doyen of journalists to file a suit against the interior minister for his abusive language when referring to journalists. They end by announcing that they will continue their sit-in until Husayn is released and saluting their colleagues who join them every day in the sit-in.

TUNISIAN ENNAHDA LEADER ISSUES STATEMENT ON 'ADIL HUSAYN

On pages 1 and 6 appears a 300-word statement by Shaykh Rachid Ghanouchi, leader of the Tunisian Ennahda Movement, in which he calls for solidarity with 'Adil Husayn. Ghanouchi says: " 'Adil Husayn's friends, who have followed with great admiration his scientific and political activities inside and outside Egypt, were surprised by reports that he had been arrested by the authorities of his country and had been humiliated and mistreated to the extent that his life was endangered." After singing the praises of Egypt as the center of culture and Islam, Ghanouchi expresses his dismay at this brutalization of such a distinguished person.

Ghanounchi continues: "We, in the Ennahda Movement in Tunisia, out of our concern for the reputation of Egypt, which is currently in danger of isolation and marginalization by the Zionist schemer and its allies, call for the release of a true struggler. They have a grudge against his brave pen and his resounding voice against injustice, so they targeted him." He expresses his belief that Egypt cannot regain its distinguished international and regional role by attacking its own citizens. It should respect intellectuals, political writers, public freedoms, and human rights, Ghanouchi concludes.

ISLAMIC HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE REGRETS HUSAYN ARREST

A 100-word report on pages 1 and 6 notes that the International Islamic Committee on Human Rights has issued a statement in which it expresses its regret at the remand in custody of 'Adil Husayn. The statement maintains that Husayn has been detained for his opinions and writings in AL-SHA'B newspaper on the widespread corruption in Egypt. The Committee holds President Mubarak responsible for Husayn's arrest, maltreatment, and detention. The statement notes that Egypt has become a police state.

This edition of AL-SHA'B also carries numerous other short reports on local and international organizations and committees which condemn the detention of 'Adil

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Husayn and demand his release, including Egypt's workers, unions, parties, and others. One report on page 2 notes that the Labor Party, the Arab Naserite Democratic Party, Misr al-Fatah Party, and the Muslim Brotherhood participated in a conference in support of 'Adil Husayn in al-Mansurah on 2 January. They explained that what has been done to Husayn has exposed the regime. They also asked that he be released immediately.

YEMENI OFFICIAL CRITICIZES ABSENCE OF ARAB UNITY AGAINST ISRAEL

A 2,000-word interview with 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Anisi, Yemen's first deputy prime minister and assistant secretary general of the Yemeni Reform Party, by Ahmad al-Suyufi is published on page 8. Al-Anisi discusses many issues including the internal situation in Yemen, the problems facing the government, administrative and financial corruption, and Yemen's stand on Arab reconciliation with Israel. On the latter, al-Anisi says that in the absence of Arab solidarity and unity, "nothing logical or objective has happened to achieve anything." He stresses that the official government stand supports the Palestinian people's right to establish their state on their own territory. He condemns Israel's attitude and policies toward the Arabs, noting that it does nothing to help the peace process. On the contrary, he believes that this policy can destroy what has already been achieved.

AL-GHAZALI WARNS OF WEST'S ACTS AGAINST ISLAM

Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali contributes his 400-word "This Is Our Religion" column on page 10 in which he discusses the international onslaught against Islam. He condemns Western society for sanctioning homosexuality while at the same time promoting birth control and family planning. They also put restrictions in Britain on girls who wish to wear the veil, he says. He calls on Muslims to unite against such policies, which attempt to destroy Islam.

PROMINENT LEFTIST LEADER DETAINED ON CHARGES OF COLLUSION

A 100-word report on page 6 notes that a prominent leftist leader, Salah 'Adli, has been detained under terrible conditions in Tura prison, conditions similar to those of 'Adil Husayn. The report casts doubt on the charges leveled against 'Adli, which came in the form of a document submitted by the National Security Council to the State Security Prosecution on 'Adli's collusion with foreigners to harm Egypt's security. Investigations have showed that such accusations are unfounded and that 'Adli was merely attempting to build social centers and development projects with funding he received from abroad.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 6 Jan

NC1601132895

[FBIS Editorial Report] This editorial report reviews the 6 January issue of AL-SHA'B. This issue is virtually devoted to the arrest of Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn. A 300-word report by Khalid Yunus on page 1 says that "at a time when thieves and symbols of corruption are sitting in the seats of power," 'Adil Husayn is being subjected to mistreatment inconsistent with all human rights and international charters. The report adds that Public Prosecutor Raja' al-'Arabi has decided to extend Husayn's detention for another 15 days despite the deterioration of his health. The report claims that 'Adil Husayn is suffering from liver and lung problems. Another report by Layla 'Abd-al-Hamid on page 1 claims that he is suffering from heart problems.

A report on page 1 carries reactions by Algerian, Palestinian, and Jordanian Islamic figures to the arrest of 'Adil Husayn. Rabah Kebir, identified as the official in charge of foreign relations in the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], says the arrest of 'Adil Husayn is a "strong blow to freedom and democracy." In a message of "solidarity" to the Labor Party, Kebir says the imprisonment of 'Adil Husayn is a "flagrant violation of the freedom of expression and political opposition" and calls for his immediate and unconditional release. Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman of the Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, says 'Adil Husayn represents the "Arab Islamic image" in this difficult time for the Arab and Muslim nation. He in turn calls for the release of Husayn and other detainees as soon as possible. Ishaq al-Farhan, secretary general of the Jordanian Islamic Action Front Party, "denounces" the arrest of Husayn and his "mistreatment" in prison.

A 5,000-word report by 'Amir 'Abd-al-Mun'im, Subhi Buhayri, and Jamal Umbabi on pages 2 and 3 focuses on a political rally held in Cairo on 4 January to express solidarity with 'Adil Husayn. Addressing the rally, Muslim Brotherhood representative Ahmad Sayf-al-Islam al-Banna said there is no freedom in Egypt, and values are being shaken and weakened. "Those who blow trumpets and burn incense for the regime are getting all the privileges," while those who write a "word of truth in defense of God and the homeland" are being thrown in prison. He added that 'Adil Husayn is "paying the price of our freedom." The government's policy is unsuccessful. He asked "who will save this nation which is experiencing its worse crises—these crises in which we have lost everything?" "Our land is occupied and our honor is violated now that Egypt has lost its leading role in the world."

Hamid Mahmud, member of the Political Bureau of the Arab Democratic Nasirite Party, said that at the same time that 'Adil Husayn is in prison, "Zionists are arriving in our country and being given a hero's welcome." The United States and Israel are trying to impose their "hegemony" on the Arabs.

Liberal Party Secretary General Rajab Hilah Hamidah called on all the "national forces" to unite and to tell the "repressive regime" "that we will not be agents of the Zionists." Dr. Midhat Khafaji from the Wafd Party said

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the imprisonment of 'Adil Husayn is a sign of hope for the people and adds that "if Mandela had not stayed in prison for 27 years, South Africa would not have been liberated." In a speech before the rally, Former chief of staff Lieutenant General Sa'd-al-Din al-Shadhili said he is a regular reader of 'Adil Husayn and has read the article under investigation, which contains nothing new. Al-Shadhili says "yes, there is a U.S. base in Sinai," adding: "There is a 500-man strong battalion under the guise of a multinational force." He asked what is 'Adil Husayn's crime in writing this article? "If we had been living in a democratic society, all this information would have been available to the people. But regrettably, the regime is withholding information from the people." Concluding, al-Shadhili said 'Adil Husayn has been arrested because he has been using the slogan "Islam is the solution" and because he has been attacking corruption and confronting "Zionist" hegemony.

Addressing the rally, Labor Party Ibrahim Shukri said the imprisonment of 'Adil Husayn, considering his present health conditions, is "an attempt to kill him." Referring to the anti- terrorist laws, Shukri said they were adopted to "fight freedom of opinion" and "party" activity. On the current confrontation between police and Islamic Group members in Upper Egypt, Shukri called for an end to this "war" and to the spilling of blood and asserted the importance of a "dialogue" between the two sides.

On page 5, the newspaper publishes a 3,000 word article by Lt. Gen. Sa'd-al-Din al-Shadhili, former Egyptian chief of staff during the October 1973 war. He says 'Adil Husayn has strongly confronted the Israel-U.S. attempts to control the region "under the guise of normalizing" relations between the Arab states and Israel. He adds that 'Adil Husayn has called for confronting the "Zionist onslaught" by resisting IMF pressure through real economic reform based on purging the regime of "corrupt" officials and establishing a step- by-step Arab unity, beginning with unity between Egypt, Libya, and Sudan. Al-Shadhdhil wonders whether 'Adin Husayn sinned by writing that the United States has a base in Sinai. Does the Camp David Treaty not stipulate the presence of multinational forces in the Sinai, with the U.S. forces forming the "backbone" of this contingent? Al-Shadhili says that in all his writings 'Adil Husayn has called for the application of the Islamic shari'ah, for an Islamic awakening, and for confronting the plot being concocted against the Islamic nation. Is his call for Arab unity and for confronting the "Zionist-U.S." onslaught a good reason to arrest him?

A 500-word article entitled "The Government in the Lavatory" by Ahmad al-Suyufi published on page 7 comments on reports that the government has locked 'Adil Husayn in a lavatory. The writer says if the government believes that placing 'Adil Husayn in a lavatory will diminish his status, this is sheer "stupidity" with which God has "endowed" the government with "tons of." He adds that " it is the government that has been placed in the lavatory and not 'Adil Husayn; nay, the legitimacy of the whole regime has been placed in the lavatory." The writer says if the government is calling on the people to confront the terrorism of individuals and groups, "who will stop the government's terrorism, repression, tyranny, and its blind and thick stick?" A government that places its writers and intellectuals in lavatories will find no one to direct and guide the nation except belly dancers. At a time when writers and intellectuals stand in line and their luggage and papers are inspected piece by piece at the airport, belly dancer Fifi gets VIP treatment and her pictures cover the government's magazines. "The stars of the society" are 'Atif Sidqi, Faruq Husni, Yusuf Wali, the thieves of chickens, the thieves of blankets, belly dancers, impostors, and vagabonds, al-Suyufi concludes.

Political Islam Review: AL-NUR 4 Jan

NC1401123895

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 4 January edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-NUR that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Muslim Cleric Charges Secularists With Provoking Violence
2. Russian 'Campaign' Against Muslims Noted
3. Muslim Figure Says Governments Should Protect Youths
4. Report on 'Oppression, Persecution' of Muslims in Philippines
5. Writer Criticizes U.S., Western Stance on Chechnya Campaign
6. Western Media Accused of Linking Islam With Terrorism
7. Article Notes West's 'Designs' Against Muslims

MUSLIM CLERIC CHARGES SECULARISTS WITH PROVOKING VIOLENCE

Page 1 runs a summary of an approximately 850-word interview with Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Kafi, a mosque imam that the paper says was banned from speeches more than a year ago.

In the interview, Dr. 'Abd-al-Kafi says it is the secularists who provoke violence in the country by their "excesses and hostile anti-Islam campaign."

RUSSIAN 'CAMPAIGN' AGAINST MUSLIMS NOTED

An approximately 950-word unattributed report on page 2 discusses the political situation in Tajikistan.

An introduction to the report reads: "The Russian forces' brutal attacks on the Muslim republic of Chechnya in the northern caucuses have proven that hatred of Islam and Muslims is an established nature of the Russians." It says that despite the Soviet Union's

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disintegration, the Russians "do not want to and cannot forget their hatred for the Muslims."

The Russians, the introduction adds, are still fighting Muslims everywhere and trying to back Communist governments in the Islamic countries that gained independence from the Soviet Union in 1991 "to bury the Islamic movement that seeks to reinstate the Islamic identity." An example of this, the report claims, is the events in Tajikistan.

MUSLIM FIGURE SAYS GOVERNMENTS SHOULD PROTECT YOUTHS

In a 160-word statement on page 2, Dr. Mani' al-Jahni, secretary general of the Islamic youths international seminar, says "the primary responsibility for protecting Muslim youths against extremism or deviation lies with the Islamic governments." He adds that these governments should remove the reasons that lead youths to opposition and extremism, such as authorizing practices that have been banned by the Koran and Prophet's tradition. He claims: "Islam is being harmed day and night through this or that government's practices in predominantly or all-Muslim countries."

He says extremism is sometimes provoked in Muslim countries by the media or some security institutions to provide a justification to "strike at Muslims and Islam." Also, he adds, Islamists are not allowed to form political parties in numerous Islamic countries "under the pretext that the formation of a religious party in a country whose majority or the entire population is Muslim is impermissible. By doing so we contradict what happens in the West, where many countries, such as France, Italy, and others have religious parties," he concludes.

REPORT ON 'OPPRESSION, PERSECUTION' OF MUSLIMS IN PHILIPPINES

Page 2 also runs an approximately 850-word report by 'Abd-al-Fattah Anwar on the situation of the Muslim Moro people in southern Philippines.

The author begins by saying: "Muslims in the Philippines are being subjected to all forms of oppression and persecution and yet they cling to their religion with all their force and with an overwhelming enthusiasm." He adds: "Therefore, it is not surprising that the Muslims there should manage to repulse all the crusades of proselytizers and orientalists who play suspicious roles in luring the Muslims to send their children to missionary schools."

He points out that the Muslims, however, refuse this policy outright and that most of the Muslims who send their children to public schools insist on taking their children to Arab and Islamic schools on the Saturdays and Sundays to learn Arabic.

The author says: "When the missionary schools failed to convert the Muslims from their religion, the government resorted to terrorism. One of the most serious crimes that the Army committed in cooperation with the radical Christian militia was the burning of peasants' homes." He concludes by saying that the Philippines Government is pursuing its "hostile policy against Islam" and that the Muslims are still suffering "extreme forms of oppression and persecution" and asks: "But for how long?

WRITER CRITICIZES U.S., WESTERN STANCE ON CHECHNYA CAMPAIGN

Mahmud Shukri writes an approximately 1,000-word article on page 2, praising the Chechen people's steadfastness against "the second largest country in the world." He notes that Russia "relinquished" three Baltic states—Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia—and says the difference between these states and the Chechen republic is that Chechnya is an Islamic country.

For this reason, he adds, the United States and European countries took the stance of an observer and encouraged the Russian forces' move to occupy Chechnya once again. He says: "It is not ruled out that the United States and some Western countries might give the Russian president a large financial reward for this aggression."

WESTERN MEDIA ACCUSED OF LINKING ISLAM WITH TERRORISM

Page 3 features an approximately 700-word unattributed report on the theme of associating Islam with terrorism and seeks the views of various academicians on the subject.

The report begins with the following passage: "Associating Islam with terrorism in the Western media is the rule while the exception is when these media report on senior world Muslim figures with a measure of fairness and objectivity." It adds: "Whenever a terrorist incident takes place in any Muslim Arab country, these media rush to affirm that Islamic fundamentalists are behind the incident. In their view, any bearded man has become a potential terrorist and anyone advocating religion has turned into a sympathizer with terrorism."

ARTICLE NOTES WEST'S 'DESIGNS' AGAINST MUSLIMS

Anwar al-Jundi writes an approximately 900-word report on page 4 urging Muslims to be wary of ills and calling for the implementation of the Islamic tradition.

He says: "With its domination, influence, and oppression, the West exploits the Muslims' destitution and backwardness to deviate them from their religion and propagate perverted ideas among them."

He adds: "The majority of population in Asia and Africa are destitute Muslims who live in substandard conditions. The dominant foreign countries exploited their situation and surrounded them with proselytization missions that provide food only for those who relinquish their religion."

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Political Islam Review: AL-NUR 8 Jan

NC1701115295

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 8 January edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-NUR that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Misuse of Alms Money Debated
2. Dialogue With Secularists Viewed
3. Nigerian Muslim Figure Interviewed
4. Book Discussing Veil Issue Banned

MISUSE OF ALMS MONEY DEBATED

In both its lead item and editorial comment, AL-NUR discusses the warning uttered by Egyptian Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi to a recent meeting of Arab interior ministers in Tunis about the need to control the misuse of alms and donations collected by certain parties and then diverted to the financing of terrorist acts throughout the Arab and Islamic world.

In a 500-word report by its "political editor" on pages 1 and 2, the paper emphasizes the following points:

—Alms should be dispensed according to Koranic instructions and should reach those who need and deserve them.

—Only the ruler has authority to implement Koranic instructions in this and other matters. Authority is not transferred to the governed by the mere fact that the ruler is neglecting his duty, and therefore "none of the governed has the right to bear arms against a delinquent ruler." The governed can, however, confront the ruler with the demand that he rule in accordance with shari'ah. They can also call on each other to have faith and act morally.

—God has preserved for Himself the power to establish religious government and to see to it that shari'ah is implemented, as in the Koranic verse: "God has promised, to those among you who believe and work righteous deeds, that He will, of a surety, grant them in the land inheritance of power, as He granted to those before them; that He will establish in authority their religion—the one which He has chosen for them."

In a 1,500-word editorial on page 1, the paper's chairman of the board al-Hamzah Di'bis comments on the same issue. He denounces the murders, usually described as "terrorism", that are committed in the name of Islam and says that they are unforgivable and must be punished as capital offenses. Even the family of the murdered, in these cases, is not permitted to pardon the culprits because "treacherous assassination" is an aggression against God's own rights. He blames government officials for implying by their actions that Islamists are behind terrorist acts, although Islam is totally innocent of all this.

Discussing the interior minister's call to control the collection and distribution of alms, he recalls that he issued a similar warning six years ago but the government was not listening. That case pertained to his investigation of donations collected by Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman in Saudi Arabia to build a mosque in Egypt. No such mosque was built. He adds that many other originally indigent shaykhs collected donations from Gulf countries and soon became "exorbitantly rich."

Di'bis says the misuse of alms would end if the government implemented shari'ah and undertook to collect and distribute alms instead of leaving this task to the public.

DIALOGUE WITH SECULARISTS VIEWED

A 100-word item on page 1, previewing a longer report on page 3, says that well-known preacher Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali favors "a dialogue with secularists and the orphans of communism" even though their ideas are "unacceptable."

Noting that Islam has always debated matters of faith with "the infidels and the idolaters," he says it can now hold a debate with "a group of ignorant paupers who have neither knowledge nor intellect and are merely mercenaries eating at every table."

The main 2,500-word report on page 3 features the views of Islamic intellectual Dr. Muhammad 'Imarah; Dr. 'Ali Jum'ah, professor of jurisprudence at the College of Islamic Disciplines; and Shaykh Jamal Qutb, an al-Azhar academic and member of parliament; and several other Islamic personalities. They all accept a dialogue with secularists but set two conditions: First that the idea of atheism be excluded from the debate because it is contrary to Egypt's prevailing order of things; and second that the dialogue be carried out in line with the Egyptian Constitution's Article 2 which states that Islamic shari'ah is the chief source of legislation in the country.

Professor Jum'ah remarks: "Some might ask me if Islam allows the establishment of atheistic or communist political parties? I can say this: Pluralism must be exercised within the context of the Constitution, public order, and morality. As I noted before, the country's public order does not permit atheism or the establishment of communist parties that do not accept divine inspiration. If secularists really want pluralism, let this be done with due respect for the general order and in the context of the Constitution's Article 2. Some secularist claim that they support this article. The Egyptian public will not accept atheism or the call to dissociate religion from society."

NIGERIAN MUSLIM FIGURE INTERVIEWED

The paper devotes a large part of page 2 to a 2,000-word interview with Nigerian businessman and Muslim leader Muhammad Masud Aviola, who discusses his efforts to resist Christian proselytism in his country, including supporting Muslim schools with his own money. He

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notes that one difficulty facing Muslim preachers is their lack of proficiency in the country's official language, English, but that this is being remedied by obtaining scholarships for Muslim students at Nigerian universities. He thanks the al-Azhar institution for its support for Islam in Nigeria.

BOOK DISCUSSING VEIL ISSUE BANNED

A 150-word report on page 1 says that al-Azhar's Islamic Research Center has refused to grant permission to publish a book entitled "The Decisive View on the Battle of the Veil" [Fasl al-Khitab fi Ma'rakat al-Hijab]. A report on the book submitted by an al-Azhar academic accuses the writer—ROSE AL-YUSUF journalist Ibrahim 'Isa—of ignorance in religious matters and of defending secularists.

Palestinian Affairs

Sha'th on Settlement Activity, 'Arafat-Rabin Summit

JN1901135795 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Nabil Sha'th, leading Palestinian negotiator and minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority, has said that the continuation of Israeli settlement activity will destroy the entire peace process. He stressed the need to totally freeze this activity pending the second phase of negotiations. Our colleague Salah Salamah interviewed him:

[Begin recording] [Sha'th] We view this as the most serious issue facing the peace process. In fact, if settlement activity continues in such a feverish manner, it will practically torpedo the entire peace process. This process was based on phased negotiations and the issues of the settlements, Jerusalem, and refugees were delayed to the second phase, which should begin before 5 May, that is, four months from now. However, this presumes that settlement activity should be totally frozen until it is discussed. Any attempt to change the situation in Jerusalem and or delay the return of refugees should also be frozen. The postponement was based on full freezing, but what Israel is doing is really destroying the good faith that is supposed to exist in these negotiations and contradicting the agreement we signed in letter and spirit. Therefore, this subject will occupy the largest part of President 'Arafat's meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Rabin today. Despite the reassurances made by Peres in the previous meetings and despite Rabin's statement yesterday about greater Jerusalem—and there is nothing called greater Jerusalem—the gaps are still huge and the subject still requires a firm decision to freeze settlement activity completely if we want the peace process to continue.

[Salamah] Dr. Nabil Sha'th: Israeli Prime Minister Rabin promised to freeze the building of houses in the occupied West Bank. However, available information indicates there will be no halt to the building of Jewish houses in Jerusalem and its periphery. What do you intend to do to protect the Palestinian right to the holy city?

[Sha'th] There are three important things we should undertake and we are doing. One is brother President 'Arafat's trip to Morocco to attend the Jerusalem Committee meetings. It is aimed to mobilize all Arab and Islamic forces that can stand by our side on this issue. This is in addition to my trip to Europe and contacts with the United States. The United States, Russia, and Europe shoulder a special responsibility and we refer to them in order to do their best to stop these Israeli actions. The second part is what we are doing at the negotiating table. The third part is our full support for the national confrontation committees, which are now resisting on the land of Palestine itself whenever there is a settlement project. This peaceful confrontation of settlement activity is taking all forms of popular and Palestinian National Authority support. It is an important element in the confrontation of the settlement activity. [end recording]

'Urayqat Interviewed on 'Arafat-Rabin Meeting

JN1901194195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 19 Jan 95

[Telephone interview with PA member Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat by Sa'id Mu'addi; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Mu'addi] PA [Palestinian Authority] member Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat: You participated in the Rabin-'Arafat meeting. How do you assess the results of the meeting, especially in light of the hopes pinned on it after recent events?

['Urayqat] At the top of the meeting's agenda was the issue of the Israeli settlement activities in the West Bank, and in and around Jerusalem. A major portion of the meeting was devoted to this issue. The president talked directly to Israeli Prime Minister Rabin. He said that peace and settlements are mutually exclusives issues, and that there must a comprehensive cessation of all settlement activities. The Israeli prime minister responded to some questions about settlements and the building of bypass roads. There is nothing new here. We are awaiting some decisions by an Israeli cabinet meeting scheduled for Sunday [22 January]. The other issue that was discussed today was that of our brother prisoners and detainees in Israeli prisons. As of Monday, as the Israeli prime minister said, Israeli Police Minister Shahal will head the Israeli side at a ministerial committee to be headed on the Palestinian side, I believe, by Nabil Sha'th. The committee will try to reach decisions on some issues and on the beginning of the release of detainees. Regarding redeployment, the Israeli side stressed commitment to the implementation of the Declaration of Principles, especially the evacuation—a term

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which Rabin used—of the Israeli troops from populated areas in the West Bank in preparation for elections, the transfer of powers, and the completion of the transitional agreement. The redeployment committees will start negotiations as of next week. Other issues were also discussed. However, I believe that during the meeting, the Palestinian stand on settlement was explained in detail. Those discussions will continue. To reiterate, peace and settlements are mutually exclusive issues.

[Mu'addi] What about the elections issue?

['Urayqat] Regarding the elections, as you know a delegation has held eight rounds of negotiations. It will complete those negotiations in two weeks. It will draft points for inclusion in the transitional agreement. Now, we will have to await the new changes after the resignation of General Gadi Zohar, who used to lead the delegation. Let us wait for the new changes. I hope that these negotiations will be completed after two weeks.

[Mu'addi] Dr. 'Urayqat, a final question: Does the Israeli position on redeployment include any plan for a partial redeployment or withdrawal from specific cities?

['Urayqat] No reference to selective, partial, or cosmetic withdrawal was made at all during the bilateral or the expanded meeting. As I said, under the Oslo agreement, redeployment in the initial stage means the irreversible departure of Israeli troops from populated areas in the West Bank.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, thank you very much.

['Urayqat] You are welcome.

PA Information Ministry Said Operating From Jerusalem Area

TA1901155195 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 19 Jan 95 p 1

[Report by correspondent Hagay Huberman]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Information Ministry, headed by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, has been operating in al-Birah, north of Jerusalem, despite the fact that the Cairo agreement stipulates that all Palestinian Authority [PA] institutions must be located in the Gaza Strip and Jericho alone.

This came to light from a leaflet published by the ministry on the "Judaization of Jerusalem." The words "Palestinian National Authority" appear on the masthead and the words "Ministry of Information—Press Office Tel. 02-954041" appear at the bottom of the cover page. This telephone number is in the al-Birah area.

Our correspondent notes that Jerusalem is not mentioned in the Gaza-Jericho First agreement signed in May 1994 in Cairo, but Article 3(6) states that "the PA offices will be situated in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area until the formation of a council which will be elected in accordance with the Declaration of Principles." The significance of this is that Jerusalem, just like the rest of the West bank, is currently out of bounds for PLO institutions.

It should be noted that so far, at least five institutions affiliated with the PLO are known to be operating in Jerusalem. These are the Palestinian Energy Center, which was established in accordance with Yasir 'Arafat's decision of 20 December 1993; the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation; the Palestinian Bureau of Statistics; the Palestinian Economic Committee on Development and Reconstruction; and the Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens Rights. All these institutions are operating in violation of the Gaza-Jericho agreements, which limit Palestinian institutions to the Gaza Strip and Jericho alone.

Security Chief: Forces Ready To Operate in West Bank

TA1901163195 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 19 Jan 95 pp 1, 21

[Report by Muhammad Abu-Kudayr and Zaki Abu-al-Halawah]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Gaza—Major General Nasr Yusuf, commander of the Palestinian National Security Forces, said that the issue of the Israeli army's redeployment outside West Bank towns and population centers will be at the top of the agenda of today's meeting at the Erez checkpoint between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. [passage omitted]

Maj. Gen. Yusuf stressed that the Palestinian security forces are capable of covering all areas of the West Bank. He noted that the Palestinian forces that will come from abroad will play a role in the West Bank. He added: We have presented a list of names of these forces [to the Israeli authorities], and after the names are checked, the forces will be brought in.

On the National Authority's relations with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], Maj. Gen. Yusuf said that Hamas must realize the circumstances of this stage and acknowledge that armed opposition is not the right option during this stage.

He added that opposition should now be limited to the political sphere. He noted that instead of looking backward, Hamas should look forward and contribute to the process of development and construction and the establishment of the foundations of a political system based on democracy and political pluralism. [passage omitted]

Hamas Statement Calls For Intifadah Against Settlement

TA1901164795 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 19 Jan 95 p 3

[Report by Tahir al-Nunu]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, AL-NAHAR Documentation and Media Office—Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has called for unifying efforts to thwart settlement activity. It said Israel's plans are aimed at expanding settlement activity in a bid to devour thousands of dunams of Palestinian land.

In a statement distributed in Gaza yesterday, Hamas stressed that Israel's claims about peace were exposed with the signing of the Oslo-Cairo agreements, which reinforced the occupation, accelerated settlement activity, and enhanced the campaign for the Judaization of Jerusalem and other occupied Palestinian lands, in addition to striking at the Palestinian people's unity.

Hamas said that Israel's intentions were thwarted when the intifadah was renewed to fight settlement expansion.

Hamas declared that there will be no peace with occupation and no stability with settlement activity. It emphasized that the Palestinian people will not remain silent in the face of these settlement campaigns and will not renounce any of their rights. It called on all Palestinian forces, primarily Fatah, to revive the intifadah against settlement activity.

PFLP, DFLP Reportedly Closing Damascus Offices

JN1901170395 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 17 Jan 95 p 17

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, AL-BAYAN—Some of the Syria-based Palestinian factions have begun to shut down their offices, cut back on the cadres working there, and halt some of the media, cultural, and artistic activities they have been performing.

The George Habash-led Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has decided to halt the publication of AL-HADAF, its main organ, as of next month. It should be noted that the PFLP cadres working on the magazine have not received their salaries for the past six months.

A PFLP source said that these measures are being taken because of the financial straits plaguing the PFLP, and also due to the PFLP's decision to move the largest possible number of its cadres to Gaza Strip and Jericho to make these two areas the center of their political activity.

AL-BAYAN has learned from reliable sources in Damascus that PFLP Secretary General Dr. George Habash has resigned his responsibilities and is awaiting approval for his travel to Gaza. He has left the job of leading the PFLP to his deputy Abu-'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri]. The Nayif Hawatimah-led Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] is walking the same path. It has begun to cut back on the number of its offices. Most DFLP cadres left Damascus for Gaza and Jericho. Its activities are currently confined to the media area, which is facing difficult financial straits. The magazine AL-HURRIYAH has been turned into a bulletin and is on its way to demise.

Said Searching for New Base

JN2001104495 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 21-27 Jan 95 p 9

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Political observers expect a Syrian-Israeli peace agreement to be signed this year. In fact, they think it is more likely that the agreement will be signed during the first half of the year. Those observers base their expectations on several factors, including the Syrian leadership's flurry of activity over the past weeks, the resumption of negotiations in Washington, and the confusion of the Palestinian leaders who are opposed to the peace agreements, especially those whom Western circles characterize as terrorists.

Political observers have described the Syrian leadership's political moves as very subtle. The Syrians have managed to use all the cards at their disposal and to reap the fruit alone without offering anything in return. The Syrian leadership first approached the Americans and the Israelis to resume the negotiations. Consequently, the Syrian leadership held secret, high-level political and military talks without announcing the negotiations or their results. Second, the Syrians approached the Arabs who are for and against the peace process and used the influence of other states to hold an Arab summit. The Syrians did this to prove to the Americans and the Israelis that Syria has weight in the Arab arena and that the Arabs who support the peace process work on the orders of Syria. In addition, the Syrian leadership started to mobilize the Arab opposition to win its support and secure other gains. Therefore, it started to mobilize the liberal Palestinian opposition that is acceptable on the international scene and to tighten the noose on the unacceptable, "terrorist" opposition. Finally, the Syrian leadership has worked to utilize the Jordanian opposition. The National Progressive Front in Syria, whose secretary general is Hafiz al-Asad, has invited the Jordanian opposition parties to visit Syria for talks on Arab affairs and party coordination. Syria, however, did not invite other opposition parties from Arab countries that support the peace process, such as Egypt, or from countries that oppose the peace process. The invitation was confined to parties in countries that have reached agreement with Israel. Observers explain this by saying that Syria has its own calculations. Basically, Syria wants to send a message to Israel that it still controls the Arab opposition and that its political weight is enough to reshuffle the cards. [passage omitted]

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Palestinian sources in Damascus said that several leaders of the Palestinian factions have started to look for new headquarters. Damascus has not explicitly and openly asked them to do so because it is still waiting for the outcome of the negotiating process and the Israeli conditions that will be conveyed by the United States.

The sources added that Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], has asked Iran to allow him to move to Tehran but that the Iranian Government refused because it does not want to embarrass Damascus with Washington. Iran also turned down a similar request by Sabri a'-Banna, alias Abu-Nidal. Ahmad Jibril is very close to the Syrian leadership and has investments worth millions of dollars in Syria, especially in hospitals. In light of the Iranian rejection, Cuba was approached. Negotiations are currently under way with the Cuban Government, through senior Palestinian officials, to shelter those leaders who are characterized as "terrorists."

The sources have confirmed that direct negotiations are being held with officials of the Fidel Castro administration. Castro has so far not categorically refused to receive the leaders. However, he has reservations because he is wary of Washington, which is opening to Cuba for the first time since the sixties. The rapprochement started following negotiations between the two countries on Cuban refugees.

Some Palestinian quarters in Tunis have said they were not optimistic about Cuba agreeing to receive the extremists, whether they belong to Palestinian resistance factions in Syria or other Arabs, Kurds, and Europeans. [passage omitted]

Paper: Reports on Embassy Move Show True U.S. Stand

TA1901183295 Jerusalem AL-TALI'AH in Arabic 19 Jan 95 p 3

[Editorial: "Transferring the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A few days ago, newspapers and news agencies reported what is said to be U.S. President Bill Clinton's position, which was conveyed to President Yasir 'Arafat, reiterating his commitment—that is, Clinton's commitment—to implementing the second stage of the Declaration of Principles and to steering the political process launched in Madrid toward its desired objectives.

Recent reports on the United States' intention to transfer its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, however, reveal the reality of the U.S. position regarding a settlement. This position constitutes an acknowledgment of and support for the Israeli stance on Jerusalem and, at the same time, a flagrant violation of the Oslo accord.

If we add to this the U.S. position on settlement activity—which constitutes an ongoing retreat from viewing settlements in the occupied territories as illegal because they are an obstacle to peace to the present approach of overlooking the current settlement activities, which violate the terms of the U.S. loan guarantees—then the only thing to be inferred is overt U.S. collusion with Israeli expansionist ambitions. This should propel the Palestinian Authority to distrust sweet-flavored U.S. statements and suspend the talks in reaction to the settlement drive's bulldozers and the measures to Judaize Jerusalem, which the Israelis are taking with the encouragement of the Americans.

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Algeria

Plans for National 'Forge-Proof' Identify Card Unveiled

LD1901214795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The production of new national forge-proof identity card will soon start in Algeria, said Lahcene Seriak, secretary-general of the ministry of interior, when he opened the eastern region meeting on preparations for presidential elections in Annaba today.

The operation includes 13 million voters who should, at every elections, be able to present the forge-proof identity card which will have the same validity as voters' card.

This card will also allow scrutinizing and regulating elections lists and the identity of citizens.

In a statement he made on this year's elections, Seriak stressed the importance of this process because it would consecrate the break-away from the past, which all Algerians demand.

The officials compared this elections with the self-determination process of 1962 due to the fact that both processes aim at determining the fate of the country, delivering it from the crisis and breaking away from past regime.

The secretary-general of the interior ministry called the 13 governors of the eastern region to take care of the security aspects during the presidential elections, expressing his conviction that the situation in this respect will improve.

Exploding Corpse Injures Member of Security Services

LD1901193695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] In a separate attack, a security service's statement issued today said that two people were killed and one member of the security services was seriously wounded when a booby-trapped corpse of a citizen killed by terrorists exploded in Bougara. The explosion occurred when the three victims tried to pick up the corpse. The same source also said that five workers were wounded 18 January when a booby-trapped car exploded in Douar Abid, Bouira province.

Car Bomb in Blida Province; Professor Assassinated

LD1901203895 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ladies and gentlemen, we have learned from security sources this evening that a car bomb has gone off in a market place in the town of Bougara in Blida Province, leaving two dead and 20 wounded; the victims were moved to nearby hospitals. This is according to security sources in Blida Province itself. We will show you pictures as soon as our teams arrive at the place.

On the other hand we also learned this evening news of the assassination of Miloud Badriar, a former member of the National Union of Algerian Students and a national secretary of the National Federation of Algerian Youth and a university professor.

The national bureau and the militants of the National Federation of Algerian Students have received with great sorrow and grief the news of the assassination of Miloud Badriar whose name is now added to the list of those who have become victims of their patriotism and their defense of the dignity and sovereignty of Algeria.

Security Forces Kill 11 'Terrorists'

LD1901132395 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The security forces announced today that they eliminated 11 terrorists last Wednesday and Thursday [11, 12 January] in Djelfa, Jijel, Mascara, and Laghouat. The security forces also managed to recover a quantity of arms and ammunition during these operations.

Domestic Situation on Agenda of European Parliament

LD1901143795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1130 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The presidential elections will encourage a return to stability and the development of Algeria, which remains a privileged partner of Europe. This is the opinion of a member of the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

The situation in Algeria is on the agenda of a European Parliament plenary session. Eight resolutions on Algeria have been tabled by parliamentary groups. The debate will start today.

Djamal Ould Abbes, chairman of the Transitional National Council Commission of Foreign affairs and Immigration, spoke yesterday before the Mediterranean inter-parliamentarian group of the European Parliament. The only specific and valid solution resides in the organization of presidential elections before the end of 1995, Ould Abbes stressed.

Popular Unity Party Head Announces Presidential Bid

LD1901222195 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Djameleddine Habibi, leader of the Popular Unity Party, held a news conference at

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which he announced his candidacy for the presidential elections, which will be held before the end of 1995.

Habibi also talked about the Rome meeting, saying that it did not bring anything new despite the fact that the country was in need of a new breath and a dialogue without any exclusion or maneuvers around the Berber language, which Habibi considers a legitimate demand that he respects.

As for the elections, the leader of the Popular Unity Party said it is a question of the people expressing their choice for a competent, patriotic, and sincere man.

Egypt

Musa Receives Phone Telephone Call From Peres

NC1901141295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1351 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Jan (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa received a telephone call from Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres today. Musa said they discussed developments in the Middle East peace process and bilateral relations.

Discusses Relations With Israel

NC1901154095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Jan (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa reiterated that Egypt's aim is to achieve a comprehensive and just settlement in the Middle East and to pursue and promote the peace process on the basis of land for peace, within the framework of Security Council Resolution 242 and the inadmissibility of the acquisition of land by war.

In remarks dealing with developments in the Middle East peace process and Egyptian-Israeli relations, Musa said there is a "problem" between Egypt and Israel which we must tackle objectively and firmly. He explained that the Egyptian stances and remarks in this regard are known. He affirmed that Egypt will continue to run its Middle East policy in accordance with the known principles of this policy, both in regard to the peace process and the overall regional situation.

Musa said Egypt is in touch with all the parties concerned with the Middle East peace issue. He explained that Egypt is in constant touch with the Palestinians, indicating that he discussed developments on the Palestinian-Israeli track with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat during their recent stay in Morocco, where they participated in the Jerusalem Committee meetings. He said Egypt is continuing its efforts to achieve peace on all tracks. He affirmed that Egypt cannot ignore some parties' flaunting of the agreements reached.

Asked about Egypt's stance on signing the extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], Musa said Egypt will explain its position on the NPT in time. He affirmed that Egypt will adopt the "necessary stance" to safeguard its interests.

Asked if the NPT will apply to Egypt if most states approve it, Musa said: This is a legal matter. Egypt does not govern the world, but we are specifically speaking about the obligations of Egypt and the other parties in the region—Israel and others—within the framework of creating a zone free of weapons of mass destruction. Therefore, we are talking on the regional and not the international level.

Editor Warns 'Egypt Capable of Punishing' Israel

NC2001113095 Paris AFP in English 0902 GMT 20 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Cairo, Jan 20 (AFP)—Egypt can "punish" Israel by blocking its efforts to establish ties with Arab and Islamic countries, an ally of President Husni Mubarak warned Friday [20 January] in a growing war of words between the two countries.

"Israel thinks it is in a position to punish Egypt but it must also consider the fact that Egypt is not powerless, does not have its hands tied and does not lack influence in the Arab and Islamic world," the editor of AL-AHRAM newspaper, Ibrahim Nafi', wrote in an article published on Friday.

The Israeli press last week published a leaked Israeli foreign ministry document which urged that "if Egypt continues its negative policies, Israel should take harsh retaliatory measures."

Nafi' warned: "Egypt is capable of punishing Israel and demonstrating its power to influence relations between Israel and Arab and Islamic parties, and even go beyond that, although now is not the time to talk about that."

After Israel signed the Declaration of Principles with the PLO in 1993 and a peace treaty with Jordan in 1994—the second treaty with an Arab state after Egypt in 1979—it began to improve ties with other Arab and Moslem states.

"The deliberate leak of the Israeli document to the press ... largely eliminated hopes of establishing a new Middle East based on economic cooperation... which could integrate Israel," Nafi' said.

"Israel will therefore be the big loser by speaking of punishing Egypt," he said. [passage omitted]

Newspapers reported that Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa is to present a report on "Israeli threats to national security" on January 28.

Writer Asks Why U.S. 'Plays Deaf' Over Rabin Remarks

NC1901131195 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 13 Jan 95 p 1

[Article by Chief Editor Jalal Duwaydar: "Brandishing War and Destruction Against Peace and Stability"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] It was natural in view of Egypt's sense of responsibility and its pioneering status that President Mubarak should state very clearly that Rabin's brandishing of the prospect of an all-out regional war was very dangerous and capable of widening the gap of trust between it and those countries that wish to join the peace process.

The president pointed out that peace is one integral whole and peace efforts should tackle the issue's every aspect. Commenting on Rabin's statement that Israel will not sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, the president reasserted that Egypt will not sign it unless Israel does. The president said he was expressing the Egyptian public's sentiments on the issue, noting that the people would have the right to ask him why he signed the treaty if he did.

To tell the truth I was astonished when I was informed of Rabin's strange remarks, particularly as he made them to reporters three days ago while U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry was visiting the country. It has been said that Perry came to the region to discuss signing the Treaty. In this connection I would like to state that Israel has the right to play coy with the United States, because it enjoys the backing of a Jewish lobby that defends its positions and persuades Washington's decisionmakers to overlook its excesses. But Israel does not have the right to expect Egypt and other countries in the region to submit to its blackmail, excesses, and threats.

The policy of threats is a serious issue that contradicts peace and stability, particularly a peace that is still being established, as President Mubarak noted.

It is now certain that the successful achievement of this peace requires foundations of justice, equality, and respect for the legitimate rights of the region's nations. Israel must understand that the era of drum-beating, the long arm, aggressive tendencies, and threats must end decisively if there is to be real peace.

Such unwelcome aggressive conduct will achieve nothing except escalate the situation in the Middle East. Escalation will not benefit the peace process. Indeed it will give sufficient justification for extremists to become more extreme and even provoke the moderates.

I am sure Rabin knows that Israel is not the only country capable of acquiring nuclear weapons. It is no longer a problem to obtain the know-how to manufacture nuclear warheads. I hope Israeli officials will have sufficient acumen to appreciate the dangers that such weapons pose, not only to the region, but to Israel itself.

What is truly surprising in this grave issue is that there was no U.S. denunciation of Rabin's serious remarks, despite constant declarations by U.S. officials that they are promoting peace in the Middle East.

We have the right to ask why Washington plays deaf when the issue concerns Tel Aviv's excesses.

Mubarak, Yemeni President Review Saudi-Yemen Situation

NC1901203195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1850 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak this evening received a second phone call from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

During the call, the two presidents continued discussion on the situation between Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Mallawi Villager Killed; Assailants Flee

NC1901221995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2150 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Jan (MENA)—A responsible security source at the Interior Ministry has stated that at around 1845 today, while citizen 'Ujaybi Yusuf Milad, 45, was standing in his yard at his home in the village of Manshiyat Markaz Mallawi in al-Minya Governorate, unknown gunmen fired at him and killed him. The assailants managed to escape.

The source said that the commanders of the al-Minya Security Department and the criminal investigations department went to the location of the crime, and the prosecution has been informed to start investigations.

Villager Identified as 'Coptic Christian'

NC2001085695 Paris AFP in English 0814 GMT 20 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Jan 20 (AFP)—Islamic militants shot dead a Coptic Christian farmer at his home in southern Egypt, police said.

The gunmen believed to be members of the outlawed al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah (Islamic group) killed 'Ujaybi Yusuf Milad, 45, in an attack Thursday [19 January] at a village near the militant stronghold of Mallawi, 300 kilometers (180 miles) south of Cairo.

A total of 594 people have died since Moslem militants in March 1992 launched a campaign of violence aimed at toppling the secular government of President Husni Mubarak.

Morocco

Iranian Metals Minister Visits, Meets With Leaders

Delivers Rafsanjani Message

LD1701182695 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Hassan II, may God make him victorious, received at the Royal Palace in Ifrane at noon today Mohammad Hoseyn Mahluji,

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Iranian minister of mines and metals. Mahluji was accompanied by his deputy Ali Kolahduz Esfahani; Hoseyn Zeyn'ali, deputy at the Iranian Islamic Affairs Council; and Mohammad Kazem Asadi-Khonsari, adviser to the foreign affairs minister, director general of Middle East and North African affairs, and chairman of the Iranian delegation participating in the proceedings of the the Jerusalem Committee's meetings.

During this meeting, the Iranian envoy delivered a special message from 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to his majesty the king.

Meets With Counterpart

LD1701233895 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Energy and Mines Minister Abdellatif Guerraoui discussed with Mohammad Hoseyn Mahluji, Iranian minister of mines and metals, the possibilities and means of strengthening cooperation between the two countries in the spheres of energy, metals, and mines.

This meeting between the Moroccan and Iranian sides concentrated on the opportunities offered by the metals sector in Morocco and Iran to embody the common desire in developing cooperation between the two countries.

The different available potentials and the prospects of their exploitation have been reviewed and discussed as a basic sphere of cooperation between Morocco and Iran.

As the Iranian minister of metals and mines stated, cooperation is based on the decision of the leaderships in the two countries to develop links in the political, economic, and social spheres.

The Iranian official also added that he hoped that through his meeting with his Moroccan counterpart, the two sides will succeed in taking the main steps to implement the wish of the two leaderships.

Discusses Issues With Trade Minister

LD1901220595 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Within the framework of strengthening bonds of fraternity and cooperation between the Moroccan Kingdom and the Iranian Republic, Driss Jettou, minister of trade, industry, and handicraft, held talks with Mohammad Hoseyn Mahluji, Iranian minister of mines and metals. The two sides reviewed potential cooperation between the two countries in the field of handicraft and modern industry.

They expressed the desire that the private sector carry out this cooperation through mutual visits and the overseeing of joint projects.

Prime Minister Meets Iranian President's Envoy

LD1901221595 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Abdellatif Filali met with Mohammed Kazem Asadi-Khonsari, the adviser to foreign affairs minister, director of the Middle East and North Africa desk at the Iranian Foreign Affairs Ministry, and the special envoy of Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. [passage omitted]

Sudan

'Sources' Report UN Plane Dropped Supplies for Rebels

AB1801205595 Dakar PANA in English 1623 GMT 18 Jan 95

[By Yahya el-Hassan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, Sudan, 18 Jan (PANA)—Sudan says a C-130 aircraft working for the United Nations relief operation in southern Sudan dropped quantities of ammunition for rebels of the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Army (SPLA) in northern Bahr al-Ghazal area on Sunday [15 January].

The official SUDAN NEWS AGENCY (SUNA) on Wednesday, quoted what it described as "informative sources" as saying the operation was part of a plan worked out at a meeting between representatives of the SPLA, "Norwegian P.A. Relief Agency", the Lutheran World Foundation and Lifeline Operations, at Nyokosh, Kenya, to provide John Garang's SPLA faction with ammunition in Bahr al-Ghazal.

The lifeline was authorised in 1988 by the Sudanese Government based on an agreement it reached with the SPLA and the United Nations for the transportation and distribution of relief supplies and medicine in various areas of war-torn southern Sudan.

The three parties renewed the agreement last year with Kenyan mediation. SUNA further quoted its unidentified sources as saying it was agreed at the meeting that a Belgian C-130 working for the Lifeline Operation would drop ammunition for the rebels every Sunday for a period of six months. The sources said the SPLA supporters in north Bahr al-Ghazal were jubilant over the airdrop last Sunday. It made up for an acute shortage of ammunition they suffered as a result of their battles with the Riak Machar SPLA faction in the area.

The SPLA, originally launched by John Garang in 1993 to fight the Government of Sudan for what it called greater autonomy for the peoples of the south, in 1993 split into two factions presently at war with one another. The original faction now referred to as the "SPLA mainstream" is led by Garang while the splinter group led by Colonel Riak Machar goes by the name "the movement for the independence of southern Sudan"

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after shedding its first name, "SPLA United". The Garang faction is said to receive support from his tribespeople, the Dinkas, while the Machar faction draws the bulk of its following from the Neur tribe, where Machar himself belongs.

SUNA referred to reports according to which sizable U.S. aid was being channeled to the SPLA through Norwegian P.A. It said the assistance included ammunition and heavy weapons, probably including those used in the rebels' attack on Kapoeta area in south-eastern Sudan in November.

"American officials had promised John Garang support to his claim for an independent state in southern Sudan if he managed to take Kapoeta", the agency said. It gave no details but quoted the Sudanese Army as saying it managed to repulse a wave of SPLA attacks on Kapoeta inflicting heavy losses in their ranks late last year.

Egyptians Reportedly Surround Hala'ib Police Stations

EA1901161295 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Egyptian authorities have taken a series of measures within the framework of their restrictive policy against the citizens of Hala'ib. A while ago, they detained a vehicle carrying water to the town. They have surrounded the police stations of (Shalasin) and Abu-Ramad and detained vehicles carrying fuel to the town. A news report by SUNA [Sudanese News Agency] says the situation has calmed down following negotiations between Sudanese and Egyptian military commanders there. The report added that negotiations are still continuing.

Al-Bashir Urges Election of Strong Candidates

EA1801204095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Jan 95

[Speech by President 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir in Khartoum—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Brothers and sisters of the (Lahamda) tribe, may peace be upon you. Salutations to all members of the (Lahamda) tribe spread all over the country. Salutations also to all those present in this field today.

We are gathered here not for the revival of tribalism nor out of vanity but to affirm and raise the word: There is no God but Allah. [passage omitted]

Let the enemies of the shari'ah [Islamic law] know that all the people of Sudan have united and rallied together in support of the shari'ah, and in defense of the shari'ah, and by God's grace the banner of the shari'ah shall never fall again. [chants] [passage omitted]

We have come together not to attack others since God does not approve of those who attack others, but rather we have gathered to face our enemies who are ready to ambush us—those who seek to harm us. You hear their broadcasts and their media organs speaking about Sudan; about [word indistinct] in Sudan; about terrorism in Sudan. Yes, we in Sudan terrify the enemies of God and religion. [chants] [passage omitted]

We have gathered together and made these offerings in order to terrify the enemies of God. It is not strange that they accuse us of being terrorists. By God we have terrified them. [applause] [passage omitted]

Soon we shall hold elections at the state level. We want these elections to be different from those of the past. As you know, in the previous elections candidates promised people schools, roads, boreholes, and other services but as soon as an MP arrives in Khartoum, he will only serve himself. [Word indistinct] you should elect strong and trustworthy individuals who will articulate your hopes, aspirations and orientations. We want a strong and trustworthy person, one committed to upholding justice, education and committed to raising the word: There is no God but Allah. We do not want [word indistinct] of the Constituent Assembly who brought down the Islamic shari'ah. Rather we want deputies who will struggle for Islam [nuwwaban mujahidin] and ready to sacrifice their lives and wealth for the sake of the shari'ah. We want them to bear the trust and to be aware that the office of a deputy in the era of the salvation revolution is a trust to which one would be answerable on the day of judgment. It is an oath taken before God and an allegiance to God the most high and not for selfish gains but for service to the faith and the adherents of the faith. [applause]. [passage omitted]

God is great and glory be to Sudan. May peace and blessings of God be upon you.

Tunisia

Jordan's Foreign Minister al-Kabariti Visits

Meets Counterpart, PLO Member

JN1901203295 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti arrived in Tunis last night after taking part in Jerusalem Committee meetings in Morocco. Immediately after his arrival, al-Kabariti held talks with Habib Ben Yahia, the Tunisian foreign minister; Said Ben Mustapha; secretary of state for foreign affairs; and a number of Tunisian Government officials within the framework of exchanging opinions and holding discussions with brothers on bolstering the unity of the Arab ranks and rebuilding confidence and understanding between the sons of the one homeland from the east to the west.

Al-Kabariti received PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, at his place

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of residence in Tunis last night. Discussions covered a number of issues dealing with Jordanian-Palestinian relations. Haydar Mahmud, the Jordanian ambassador in Tunis, attended these meetings.

Meets With Prime Minister

LD1901213795 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Hamed Karoui this afternoon received at the Government Palace, the Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, who said that he conveyed to Prime Minister Karoui the greetings of Jordanian Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir. He also said that he acquainted him with the nature of the Jordanian position on all the Arab issues.

The Jordanian foreign minister pointed out the identity of the two countries' attitudes and analyses, particularly on the question of moves to clear up Arab relations by way of creating a mechanism to solve disputes and remove the obstacles that confront Arab interests, especially when this approach has been initiated by His Excellency President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali during his meeting today with the heads of the diplomatic missions.

Al-Kabariti said: We strongly support this trend. He also said that the meeting dealt with the agenda of the coming meetings of the Tunisian-Jordanian higher committee.

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Bahrain

Shiite Cleric Exiled; Severe Street Clashes Erupt

LD2001122695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 20 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bahraini officials have sent a Shiite clergyman into exile. This is said to be the fourth clergyman expelled from the country following the recent uprisings in Bahrain.

Street clashes, which lasted for almost two weeks last December, have once again erupted and are considered to be the most severe unrest since the abortive coup of 1981. In the riot, the Bahraini people have called for democracy and an improvement in the present standards of living.

Despite the claims of the Bahraini officials, the recent uprisings have nothing to do with other countries.

London-Based Movement Issues Statement

NC1901134895 Paris AFP in English 1123 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Jan 19 (AFP)—Bahraini authorities have deported another Moslem cleric after he was arrested in connection with Shiite protests in the Gulf state, the opposition said Thursday [12 January].

The London-based Bahrain Freedom Movement, in a statement sent to AFP in Nicosia, said 29-year-old Shaykh al-Shuwala was arrested on January 7 [Saturday] and then expelled to Damascus on Wednesday [11 January]. He was the fourth cleric to be deported this month.

Another Shiite cleric, deported after his arrest in December sparked the wave of clashes between police and young Shiites in Bahrain, said Wednesday in London that he had asked Britain for political asylum. Shaykh 'Ali Salman, 30, and two followers, Shaykhs Hamzah Diri and Haydar Sitri, were released from jail in Bahrain on Sunday [15 January] and deported to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. They travelled on to London and were granted temporary stay pending a ruling by immigration authorities on their request for asylum. Bahrain admitted only expelling a "group of individuals" whose "responsibility for the troubles in Bahrain has been proved."

Shaykh 'Ali's arrest on December 5 touched off the worst political violence in the tiny Gulf archipelago since the former British protectorate gained its independence in 1971. The Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain (IFLB) said a total of 16 people were killed in the unrest, but the Bahraini authorities only acknowledged the death of one policeman.

The Bahraini opposition in exile is calling for restoration of the parliament and Constitution suspended by the Sunni-led Bahraini Government in 1975. Bahraini security forces have arrested hundreds of suspected dissidents in a crackdown on the opposition.

Qatar

Council of Ministers Welcomes Saudi-Yemeni Border Accord

LD1901201795 Riyadh SPA in English 1917 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Doha, Jan 19, SPA—The Qatari Council of Ministers welcomed the recent agreement reached by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Yemen to defuse the borders dispute between the two countries.

The Qatari news agency said the council made the remarks during a meeting on Wednesday [18 January] and it thanked the Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad for the successful mediation efforts to remove the misunderstanding. It expressed hope that the two countries would soon resume the bilateral dialogue to resolve pending issues with peaceful means.

Saudi Arabia

Defense Minister Meets UK Counterpart on Cooperation

MM1801165295 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 18 Jan 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by 'Abdallah Nasir al-Shahri: "Prince Sultan Tells AL-HAYAH: No Obstacles Hampering al-Yamamah Project"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh—Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi second deputy prime minister and defense and aviation minister, met in his office in Riyadh yesterday with his British opposite number Malcolm Rifkind and the delegation accompanying him. It has been learned that the discussions dealt with "the situation in the Gulf region, potential threats to the region's security, the course of the the negotiations between the Arabs and Israel, and military cooperation between the two countries."

Prince Sultan told AL-HAYAH following the meeting that the British secretary's visit to the Kingdom "comes to confirm the friendship between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Britain." He pointed to the two sides' keenness to "reinforce military cooperation in the framework of the al-Yamamah project." He stressed that "there are no obstacles hampering the program's course."

Prince Sultan signed the al-Yamamah agreement with the British Government in 1985. The value of its first stage totaled over 10 billion pounds. He signed the second stage of the agreement in January 1993 at the value of 4 billion pounds to purchase 48 Tornado fighter aircraft and various items of defense equipment.

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The agreement between Riyadh and London stipulates that the latter invest over $1.6 billion in joint enterprises with Saudi partners in accordance with the economic balance program (resulting from the al-Yamamah project), which lasts 10 years and is scheduled to terminate in 1998.

Prince Sultan denied that it has been agreed to sign new arms deals between the two countries. He stressed that the Kingdom is not a center for polarizing arms or exporting armament money. The talks focused mainly on a review of prospects for bilateral relations and on consolidating the friendship between our two countries. [passage omitted]

Commentary: Iranian Regime Destabilizing Region

LD1501004395 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Jan 95

[Commentary by Husayn al-'Askari—read by Bakr Bakhaybar]

[FBIS Translated Text] Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you. The Foreign Ministry undersecretary of the ruling regime in Tehran has tried to deny the world's charge against the rulers of Iran that their regime had become a source of instability in the region because of the reckless practices of the ruling regime in Tehran.

Those who listen to the statements made by the senior figures of the Tehran regime will be amazed at the outstanding ability of the members of the ruling regime in Iran to turn facts around and deal with what is wrong as though it was right.

The undersecretary of the regime's Foreign Ministry has tried with an enviably vacuous eloquence to exonerate his regime from the charge made against it by the international community of working outside the law and dealing with anything that would destabilize security and stability, not just in the Gulf region but in any region in the world. This charge was made in view of the fact that the ruling regime in Tehran regards the international arena a natural extension of its domain to which it may export all its shortcomings and evils. After destroying all its country's and people's resources, the Tehran regime has started to aspire to transferring its failed experiments to others.

With this background, the undersecretary of the Tehran regime's Foreign Ministry is trying, as other senior figures of the regime have and are trying, to deceive themselves and others by spreading falsehoods and untruths.

The Tehran regime is weeping over good neighborliness and over the region's security and stability and raises its voices in lamentation and wailing over the loss of trust between Iran and neighboring states. However, the truth, well known to the Tehran regime, is that that regime is planting ill-will, entrenching stability, and threatening the region's security by attempting to impose its domination and tutelage on it, although it does not possess anything that may qualify it for that except for malice and hatred of life and the living. It is due to all that that no one has or will believe what the senior figures of the regime in Iran say, because their actions disprove their statements.

Yemen

Yemeni Reform Grouping's al-Yadumi Interviewed

Comments on Islamic Movement

MM1701162095 London AL-SHARQ AL-ASWAT in Arabic 14 Jan 95 p10

[Part one of interview with YRG Secretary General Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Yadumi by Hammud Munsir in Sanaa; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Munsir] The Yemeni Islamic movement passed through a number of main stages before the birth of the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG] following the unity, on 13 September 1990. What were these stages, which were watersheds in the political march of the Islamic movement in Yemen?

[Al-Yadumi] Like all the other political forces that existed in the Yemeni arena prior to the unity, the Islamic movement in Yemen carried out its political work within the limits permitted by the regime in its various stages since 26 September 1962. Secrecy was the most prominent characteristic of Islamic work at the time. This is because the successive constitutions promulgated in Yemen did not permit overt political action and prohibited all forms and colors of partisanship. At the same time, the Islamic movement used to express its views through some of its learned men and prominent figures then.

I can also say that one of the most characteristic features of the Islamic movement in Yemen, through its various stages, was that its actions did not go beyond giving advice to the ruler and the dissemination of its concept of Islam among the popular circles, using for this purpose the means of persuasion and quiet dialogue. Throughout its long history, it has never been known to take an extremist attitude. [passage omitted]

[Munsir] You have intimated that you have cooperated with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih following his assumption of office. Was this alliance between your organization and him based on combating the Marxist tide and preventing its expansion in the northern provinces? Or was it based on an agreement providing for the Islamists' participation in the government?

[Al-Yadumi] The word alliance is not a word that can be applied to the state of our cooperation with him at the time. It was a state of cooperation between us and the

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regime, as we have noted that Marxist elements had begun to take control of many regions, particularly in the provinces of Ta'izz, Ibb, and al-Bayda as well as some positions in the province of Sanaa. We also noted at the time that the state had started a dialogue with some elements from the leftist organization "The National Democratic Front" at the Hotel Dar al-Hamad in Sanaa. It transpired that the state, at the time, was unable to stand alone in the face of the communist tide, which was supported by the communist regime in Aden, which in turn was supported by the socialist bloc headed by the former Soviet Union.

We decided then, from a religious and national point of view, that to sit on the fence in the face of this state of affairs will lead to the deterioration of political, economic, and security conditions in the country. We feared that the northern and western provinces might fall into the communists' hands, just as the southern and eastern provinces had fallen before. What the Socialist Party had done in these provinces was well known and so was what these communist elements had done in the regions they succeeded in dominating.

Thus it was necessary for us to extend our hands to the state in order to stop the spread of the communist tide in the rest of Yemen. [passage omitted]

[Munsir] Following the unity and the adoption of the system of political plurality and partisanship, the formation of several leftist, nationalist, and Islamic parties was announced. At the time of the announcement of the formation of the YRG as an Islamic party, the formation of a number of other Islamic parties was announced as well, such as the Right Party, the Union of Popular Forces Party, the Islamic Rebirth Party, and the Islamic Platform Party. Does the multiplicity of Islamic parties in Yemen mean that Islamic unity does not exist there?

[Al-Yadumi] I would not like to talk on behalf of others. But I must say that prior to the unity, the Islamic movement in Yemen succeeded in dealing with all the officials as well as with the regime during the various stages according to its own methods and succeeded in winning popularity. But it was a tide.

The fact that several Islamic organizations have emerged following the unity is a matter that concerns these organizations themselves. You can go and talk to them and you might succeed in reaching some results.

[Munsir] In your capacity as secretary general of the YRG, which is one of the Islamic parties and organizations, how do you explain the partisan and organizational multiplicity within the framework of the Islamic movement?

[Al-Yadumi] I have no explanation whatsoever for this. I respect all the political organizations in the arena whatever their names. I leave the matter of the rectification of this state of affairs to all political forces and citizens.

[Munsir] How precisely do you evaluate relations between the YRG and these Islamic parties and organizations?

[Al-Yadumi] We have tried, on more than one occasion, to extend our hands to our brothers in these organizations and to enter into a dialogue with them. But I can say that relations in general existed among us. [passage omitted]

[Munsir] It was often said during the past years, particularly following the security incidents in Aden in the period 1992-1993, that there were several Islamic groups such as "Al-Jihad" and the "Arab Afghans" operating under the banners of the YRG, which constitutes an umbrella for several Islamic groups. What is the truth about this and was this the reason for the delay in the convening of the General Congress of the Reform Grouping?

[Al-Yadumi] The others have the right to express their views on us and to evaluate us as they like. But it is also our right to explain the facts. Time and the years have proven that the YRG has been a coherent and not a fragmented and chaotic entity. Time has proven that what is being said by those with whom we differ in views was not correct.

[Munsir] Are there any Islamic groups operating outside the YRG framework, other than the organizations and parties we have already talked about so far? And if there were such groups, what is the relation between them and the Reform Grouping?

[Al-Yadumi] The YRG is only responsible for itself and its members. The Yemeni arena is open to all.

[Munsir] The incidents which took place in Aden at the beginning of last September and which involved assaults on and destruction of graves and holy men's monuments have shown that there were some groups operating outside the framework of the Reform Grouping, as evident from the statement issued by the Grouping to this effect at the time, in which it explained its position on these incidents. But despite this, these groups were said to belong to the YRG. What is the nature of the relationship between the Reform Grouping and these groups?

[Al-Yadumi] Regrettably, some forces try to attribute all negative actions that take place in the country to the YRG. They try to imply to the others that this negative manifestations stem from the YRG, which is not true. Those who commit such negative actions are a group of Muslim youth who are unable to fathom the dimensions of the conditions in our country or the meaning of upholding good and shunning evil. They have tried to rectify some errors and correct some concepts, but, most regrettably, they resorted to methods which could have been avoided as the mistakes could be dealt with in a more rational manner than has been the case.

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[Munsir] It was said that the statement issued by the YRG at the time has actually deepened the conflicts with the aforementioned groups in Yemen. Is this true?

[Al-Yadumi] We have our own understanding of Islam and others have their own understanding. We present our concept of Islam to the people and the others have the right to present their concept. We do not call anyone atheist and we are not the guardians of the people nor are we the custodian of this religion. We do not consider ourselves the Islamic Grouping. We consider ourselves to be one of the Islamic groups and that we are closer to the truth. We deal with our people and with all political forces on this basis and through our own principles and our understanding of our religion. We might agree with some in this respect and we might differ with some others.

[Munsir] Does this mean that the Yemeni Islamic movement is characterised by diversity and multiplicity and that the YRG is only one of the Yemeni Islamic political organizations?

[Al-Yadumi] Despite the fact that we are Muslims, I wish to reiterate that we did not declare ourselves as a "Muslim Brotherhood." Please correct this. [passage omitted]

[Munsir] Was the YRG's acceptance of participation in the tripartite alliances following the parliamentary elections which took place in mid-1993 due to its realization that the regime was unable to withstand the YRG's opposition or was it due to your benefiting from the Islamic movement in Algeria?

[Al-Yadumi] We always adopt peaceful stands. Undoubtedly, we have benefited from all the positive human experiences. This is a legitimate thing for us to do. We are an honest movement and the YRG is an organization that is loved by the people. We always adopt all the means we feel could entrench social peace in our society and try to use them and spread them among our brothers in the other political forces in the country. Undoubtedly, whenever you see a country living under conditions of political instability, you cannot but feel sorry for it and this prompts one to try to avoid falling in such a state. [passage omitted]

Comments on YRG Role, Regional Issues

MM1701164495 London AL-SHARQ AL-ASWAT in Arabic 15 Jan 95 p6

[Part two of interview with YRG Secretary General Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Yadumi by Hammud Munsir in Sanaa; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Munsir] What, in your opinion, is the future of the Socialist Party and where do you find it standing today on the map of the Yemeni political parties and forces?

[Al-Yadumi] I would not like to place it in any specific position. It has placed itself by itself in the place it is occupying now historically, politically, and ideologically.

[Munsir] The Document of Pledge and Accord has been one of the most prominent features of the political crisis solution but at the same time it has been the most prominent element in the fighting and fratricide in Yemen. Do you agree with this opinion?

[Al-Yadumi] This is to some extent true. The Socialist Party and the forces that allied themselves with it in the Pledge and Accord Document were all eager to see the unity discontinued. Time has proven this. In many of its articles, the Pledge and Accord Document concentrated on warning against secession more than it concentrated on alerting people to the meaning of unity. [passage omitted]

[Munsir] The Yemeni Reform Grouping's [YRG] participation in the government coincided with the deteriorating economic conditions in Yemen and the presence of many old and new political and social problems, thus presenting the Grouping with major challenges. To what extent does the YRG bet on winning in this partnership and what are the elements of this bet in your opinion?

[Al-Yadumi] We will win, God willing, despite the fact that all the ministerial portfolios we have acquired have been services portfolios and in a bad state. But I can say that God willing, we will win in the future and win the love of our people, to whom we will prove our credibility by our handling of these ministries.

We have put forward to society a rational, balanced, and unemotional government program. Our promises in this program have been all realistic and different promises. For this reason, we and the others will be judged in the forthcoming elections on the basis of the electoral manifesto we have put forward, to find out whether we have honored what we previously promised in the past session or whether we have failed to do so.

[Munsir] Are you optimistic about the fulfillment of what you have promised and what are the causes of this optimism?

[Al-Yadumi] Yes, I am optimistic. This is because when we returned to our electoral manifesto and brought our ministers to account on its basis, I can say that we had realized a considerable part of what we promised in that manifesto. I hope that we will fulfill the remaining part of our promises in the forthcoming stage. [passage omitted]

[Munsir] Recent reports have spoken of conflicts between the Congress and the YRG over appointments to administrative posts.

Do you think these conflicts are a mere continuation of the political scheming, some manifestations of which you said appeared in the ministry of supplies and trade during the war?

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[Al-Yadumi] Firstly, I wish to affirm that there is no conflict between the YRG and the General People's Congress [GPC]. I do not know where these reports have come from. We are in a state of harmony. Furthermore, the ink on the coalition document is not yet dry. When did we start to act so that we would have a conflict among ourselves? We are trying to drop [as published] the bilateral coalition document on the grounds of the realities of life and political and administrative action. But we have not started yet and few weeks only have passed since the signing of the document. For this reason, reports of a conflict are unfounded.

[Munsir] Two other documents on political organizational coordination and parliament were scheduled to be signed between the General Popular Congress and the YRG. The delay in signing these two documents might have created the impression that there were conflicts between the two sides. What are the reasons for this delay?

[Al-Yadumi] The signing has been delayed because brother Muhammad Qahtan, head of the Political Department of the Reform Grouping Secretariat, fell sick and went abroad for treatment. He and 'Abd al-Malik Mansur, head of the GPC Political Department, were the ones entrusted with the finalization of the two aforementioned documents. But the illness of brother Muhammad Qahtan has caused the delay in finalizing the two documents.

[Munsir] Is there no one who can deputize for the head of the YRG Political Department and act for him in this case?

[Al-Yadumi] The brothers in the YRG felt it would be better to wait until brother Muhammad Qahtan returns and completes the efforts he had begun.

[Munsir] It is a known fact that the coalition document has defined political portfolios in the ministerial formation, in regard to which the ratio of parliamentary representation could be taken into consideration. The document affirmed at the same time that appointments and changes to the posts of under secretaries and those below them must be governed by the civil service law. It is because of this that it is being said that there were differences between the Reform Grouping and the GPC because the Reform Grouping was trying to secure the largest number of such posts. Is this what is actually happening?

[Al-Yadumi] Why do not those who speak of differences say something tangible such as that differences have occurred over this or that specific post and involve this or that particular person. But just to say that there were differences in such general terms, is untrue and totally unfounded.

[Munsir] For how long do you envisage there would be no political scheming between the YRG and the GPC akin to what happened between the Congress and the Socialist Party during their alliance in the transitional period?

[Al-Yadumi] I believe that the sense of responsibility all feel would prevent any political scheming.

[Munsir] Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, head of the YRG Higher Organization, stated in a recent statement to the press that "what binds the Reform Grouping and the Congress does not need any documents to preserve it," while Yasin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, president of the Reform Grouping, has stated that "between the Congress and the Reform Grouping there are pledges and covenants, and so anyone resorting to scheming will have God scheming against him, and God is the best schemer." What does the YRG secretary general say to this?

[Al-Yadumi] Our relationship with the GPC is strong and solid. There is no contradiction between what Shaykh 'Abdallah and Yasin said. I am optimistic about the continuation of this relationship in its strength between us and the GPC because of the good this holds for the nation and the people. [passage omitted]

[Munsir] How do you view the Sudanese experiment and can it be of any use to Yemen?

[Al-Yadumi] There are big differences between the conditions of Yemeni society and those of Sudanese society. There are also differences between the way the Islamic Movement in Sudan deals with the conditions there and the way the Islamic Movement in Yemen deals with the conditions here.

[Munsir] Some observers say that the new and declared rapprochement between Sudan and Yemen was the by-product of the participation of the YRG in the government in Yemen. What do you say to that?

[Al-Yadumi] Rapprochement between Yemen and Sudan is not novel in the relations between the two countries. It is a rapprochement between the Yemeni Government and the Sudanese Government and we are a part of the Yemeni Government. We will seek to "reform" and find formulas for rapprochement between our government and all the Arab and Islamic countries and indeed all the friendly governments in the world.

[Munsir] Moves and efforts are being made to redress the relations between Yemen and the Gulf countries and in particular with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar has arrived in Riyadh on a visit to the Kingdom and his visit has been described as falling within the scope of these efforts. How do you in the YRG view these relations and the reconciliation between Yemen and its neighbours in the Peninsula and the Gulf?

[Al-Yadumi] We feel it is necessary to review Yemeni-Saudi relations in particular and Yemeni-Gulf relations in general.

I believe the misunderstanding between the two countries stems from the interests of some people of no

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significance in the Yemeni- Saudi arena, people whose only concern is to create problems between the two countries. Unfortunately there is a group of people who should be the subject of a review by Yemen and the Saudi Kingdom.

We are the sons of one religion. We cannot emigrate from this land nor can they emigrate either. We are bound together by bonds of blood, faith, and history. For this reason, the visit of Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar to Riyadh, will, God willing, be a means and a cause for speeding up the review process, so that stability would reign over the region in general and over the Yemeni-Saudi relations in particular.

[Munsir] Who are these people you are referring to? Do you mean members of the Yemeni opposition who are now abroad?

[Al-Yadumi] What I am saying is that there are some people whose interests lie in the deterioration of relations, be they opposition members or others. But if we want to get to the facts of matters, a calm dialogue and continued direct meetings between the officials in Yemen and Saudi Arabia would be needed, so as to define these people and the causes of dispute and deal with them in a realistic manner without paying attention to what is said by those whose interests lie in the deterioration of Yemeni-Sudanese [as published] relations.

[Munsir] There are some who believe that there can be no reconciliation between Yemen and the outside countries until Yemen has succeeded in establishing a national reconciliation internally first. What do you say to that?

[Al-Yadumi] Internal reconciliation? But between whom? Besides, all those who had been deceived have now returned to Yemen which opens its heart widely for the return of all those who are still abroad so that they may tackle their problems.

I am surprised at the statement that there can be no regional reconciliation for Yemen except after reconciliation with the traitors or the return of what remained of the people who betrayed their homeland. What interest does the region and its countries have in tying their interests and the question of their reconciliation with the Yemeni people to a bunch of traitors who have been outcast by the people and history? I am surprised at such linkage. I would like these traitors to specify to us which country would not have reconciliation between itself and our people except through them or through reconciliation with them, so that the picture would be clearer to us.

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Assembly Issues Statement on War Anniversary

JN1901123895 Baghdad INA in English 1020 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Jan. 19 (INA)—The Iraqi National Assembly (parliament) appealed to good and humanitarian forces across the world to work seriously and swiftly to bring an end to the crime of the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq that claimed lives of thousands of children, women, sick and aged people due to the sharp dearth of food and medicine.

In its statement issued on the fourth anniversary of "Umm al-Ma'arik," Mother of Battles, the parliament stressed that the maintaining of the anti-Iraq sanctions is inconsistent with all international laws and norms as well as the human rights declaration, especially that Iraq has positively cooperated with the relevant Security Council resolutions.

The statement confirmed that Iraqi people are now on the stake due to the protracted sanctions clamped on them, where famine and epidemics widely prevailed and the citizen could no longer afford other essentials of life.

'Aziz Holds U.S. Responsible for Suffering, Deaths

NC1901201095 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1940 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 19 Jan (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has stated that the suffering of our people and the deaths of thousands of innocent citizens as a result of the unjust embargo imposed on Iraq are the responsibility of one country—namely, the United States, which insists on a continued embargo, against the will of the majority of the Security Council members and the world community.

Speaking at a meeting with a delegation of Italian doctors from Milan led by Dr. Manuela Casparini [name as transliterated], 'Aziz added that Iraq has honored its obligations under the Security Council resolutions, which obliges the Council, by virtue of the same resolutions, to lift the embargo. However, he added, the United States is preventing this for malicious political reasons that have nothing to do with the Council's resolutions.

'Aziz appreciated the Milan doctors team's initiative in donating quantities of basic medicines and some medical equipment to the Iraqi hospitals. He also appreciated their efforts to help ease the impact of the unjust embargo.

Members of the delegation expressed their profound sympathy with the suffering of the Iraqi people, particularly the pain and dangers experienced by the Iraqi children, elderly, and patients as a result of the acute shortage in medicines, the scarcity of antibiotics, and the disorder that has generally befallen the health sector and other services as a result of the aggression and the continuation of the unjust embargo.

Says Embargo U.S. 'Policy of Arrogance'

NC1901202495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1950 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 19 Jan (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has affirmed that the Security Council resolutions against Iraq are unprecedented in the history of the United Nations and are of very harsh nature in their every detail.

At his meeting this evening with the delegations to the conference of international figures in solidarity with Iraq, he said that despite the harsh nature of the Security Council resolutions, the Iraqi leadership, out of its desire to preserve security and stability in the region and in order for our people not to be exposed to greater harm, has approved these resolutions and their implementation, which started in 1991.

He added that the time has come for the Security Council to take positive action in return for Iraq's compliance with its resolutions and lift the embargo, or at least ease it.

Tariq 'Aziz has pointed out that the main problem preventing the Security Council's action in this direction is the American stand, backed by Britain. He clarified that the stances taken by Russia, China, and France, who are permanent members of the Council, are fair and balanced and indicate that the Council has to take positive action toward Iraq. These three countries are supported by other countries that are not permanent members of the Security Council.

He asserted that the embargo resolution is no longer a resolution issued by the Security Council or the United Nations, as it was in 1990. It is an American embargo and does not have unanimous support.

He said that the U.S. officials cannot offer any convincing explanation of their stand—a stand which no longer has any legal or political basis acceptable in the international community. He affirmed that this is precisely the policy of arrogance and control.

He clarified that the U.S. pretexts for keeping the embargo are not accepted by the majority of the Security Council members, because they are false and exaggerated. These pretexts do not accord with the texts of the Security Council resolutions. He added that the United States is behaving in a manner that conflicts with all the texts of the Council's resolutions.

Tariq 'Aziz said that France believes that the time has come for the Security Council to lift its sanctions against Iraq or to ease them. He added that his recent visit to Paris was successful and achieved its objectives, describing France's stance as legal, balanced, and fair.

'Aziz explained that Spain's stance is also legal, fair, and perceptive of facts. He expressed the hope that Iraqi-Spanish relations will return to normal because the two countries have joint legitimate interests.

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'Aziz stressed that we have great confidence in our people and in their ability to stand fast. We also have great confidence in the honorable persons in the world who support just causes. He explained that the presence of the conference's delegations is an encouraging factor and a contribution to lifting the blockade.

At the outset of the meeting, 'Aziz conveyed the thanks of the Iraqi leadership to the delegations of international personalities for their participation with the Iraqis in these difficult times and for their solidarity with the Iraqi people. He described the solidarity of the conference's delegations with the Iraqi people as brave.

Embargo Said To Cause 7,808 Deaths in al-Basrah

JN2001065195 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 13 Jan 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] The number of deaths that occurred in al-Basrah Governorate last year due to the continuation of the unfair economic boycott on our great people and the consequent acute shortage of food and medicine has reached 7,808. A spokesman for the Health Department in the governorate explained that the deaths included 1,467 children under the age of four and 5,790 children above the age of five.

Official Attacks Saudi, Kuwaiti 'Treasonous Roles'

JN2001070495 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 8 Jan 95 p 1

[Article by Nuri Najm al-Marsumi, under secretary of the Ministry of Culture and Information: "Where Are U.S. Agents in the Region Heading?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is obvious that the Arab homeland is in a state of disequilibrium. The gaps are widening in stands and interests between regimes and peoples. Day after day new pictures and maps are being drawn over the debris of old ones. The most serious development is that, for the first time, the Arabs are faced with a political scene of a different kind; a scene represented by the feverish attempts of U.S. agents to reorganize their affairs and conditions in the region, depending on a brutal imperialist force and its ally, the Zionist entity, in broad day light and without any feeling of shame before their peoples or anyone else.

At a time when world nations and peoples to the east, west, north, and south are resisting all forms of injustice and exploitation, certain Arab rulers are making humiliating concessions. More than that, these rulers persist in their policy of doing grievous harm to the vital interests of the Arab nation; nay, they squander Arab wealth by making unbearable financial commitments, as is happening in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. They also persist in their divisive and isolationist policies, which clearly show these rulers' betrayal of their nation and peoples and the historical trust that has been placed on them to preserve the objectives of their peoples.

These rulers are deliberately weakening the Arab front against the Zionist enemy. They are fighting patriotic and nationalist Arab regimes with all the "power" in their possession. They are also siding with the United States and, in fact, inciting it to continue with the embargoes it has imposed on Iraq, Libya, and Sudan. They are also plotting against Yemen, fanning the fire of sedition in Algeria, and rushing to normalize relations with the Zionist enemy. They are determined to transform the Arab homeland—the entire Arab homeland—into an American oasis!

It is only under such conditions that these rulers can fulfill their treasonous roles. Otherwise, the holes in which they hid in the past out of fear from the Arab revolutionary trend would have been their natural refuge. We say frankly that the time of playing with the Arab nation's interests and sanctities and wasting its wealth will not last long. Unless these rulers come back to their senses—which we doubt—the peoples are capable, as always, of rectifying matters and putting an end to the theatrics of the Saudi and Kuwaiti shaykhs and the other U.S. agents in the region.

*Kuwaiti Information Minister Said Wanted by Courts

95LH0049A Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic7 Nov 94 p 20ba

[Article by special correspondent in Washington: "Kuwaiti Information Minister Said Wanted by Courts"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti ambassador in Washington, had been paying off American politicians and Americans of Arab origin since 2 August 1991. The money was either paid directly or through what was known as "The Free Kuwait Committee." One of those believed to have been paid off through this avenue is the former American ambassador to Bahrain. It is believed that he alone received a few million dollars from Sa'ud al-Sabah in order to establish a society called "The Forthcoming Danger." The committee's main task was to decry Iraq and encourage the former American President Bush to strike at her.

The establishment of the group for "Those Demanding the Declaration of War on Iraq" was another major outcome of the money paid off to the former American ambassador. Two Zionist congressmen, Stephen Solarz and Tom Lantos, who is chairman of the Human Rights Committee in Congress, were among this group. For a large sum of money that he received, Lantos convened a special meeting of the Human Rights Committee in order to hear testimony about "Iraqi atrocities" conducted in Kuwaiti hospitals. During this testimony hearing, the Kuwaiti Ambassador Sa'ud al-Sabah's daughter had testified in front of the world—under oath—that Iraqi soldiers threw Kuwaiti infants out of incubators, stole the incubators, and took them to Iraq!

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However, soon, the American human rights societies and Amnesty International confirmed the falseness of the Kuwaiti ambassador's daughter's testimony. It was also found that the ambassador's daughter had not been in Kuwait at that time, that she had not actually witnessed any of the actions she had spoken about in her testimony, and that she was a liar, the same as her father was.

What is even more astonishing is the fact that the chairman of the Congress Human Rights Committee knew about that lie and about the falseness of the ambassador's daughter's testimony!

The disclosure of these facts put the former American ambassador into a critical situation especially when it was discovered that he did not include in his tax returns the sum that he had received from Ambassador al-Sabah. However, he is presently facing trial as there was evidence that he had received the sum of $350,000 as a "present."

Presently, because he is denying that he took money from the Kuwaiti ambassador, Sa'ud al-Sabah, who is currently the Kuwaiti information minister, has been summoned to the United States as a witness to confirm giving him this sum of money so that he could offer Kuwait "services" during the Gulf crisis. Political circles in Washington believe that it is possible for the Kuwaiti ambassador to face trial for lying to Congress.

*Russian Role in Gulf Analyzed, Called Imperative

95LH0046A Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 12 Nov 94 p 6

[Article by Qays Muhammad Nuri]

[FBIS Translated Text] Whether Russia be a czarist empire, an important part of the Soviet Union, or a commonwealth, the Persian Gulf region has held, and will continue to hold, a position of exceptional importance in Russian considerations.

This importance has had its justifications in the past, and is imperative in the world of today and the shape of tomorrow.

The importance of the Persian Gulf to Czarist Russia had security significance as of the early sixteenth century and the start of European invasions of the region. The concept of geographic security for Czarist Russia's southern borders continued to exist under Russia's new form following the October Revolution. It became one of the most important fixtures in Russia's foreign policy and national security, especially after the emergence of the American policy of containment. The goal of containment was to encircle the Asian continent with a series of security pacts and military bases in order to keep the Soviets within their borders and to prevent their encroaching on the strategic goals and interests of the West, of America in particular. These interests include the essential oil deposits in the world, and in the Persian Gulf region specifically, because of the special importance that this region has in this respect. In spite of America's policy of containment, Russia's preponderant weight in the Soviet state enabled it to accomplish several things to thwart the containment policy through many regional changes, which helped it to some extent to penetrate the region and immerse itself in its political circumstances. That is attributable not only to considerations of the conflict that existed at that time between the two superpowers, but also to the theory of Russian security, whose most important elements arise from the understanding that Asian security constitutes an essential element of Russian national security itself.

In light of this understanding, what goes on in Southwest Asia and in the Persian Gulf region, the most valuable part of Asia geo-strategically speaking, is one of Russia's top priorities, whatever the form and orientation of the Russian ideological system.

Despite all that is said about the end of the East-West conflict in light of the new world order that has resulted from the demise of the Soviet state, and Russia's subsequent bets that it would receive Western economic aid to rebuild its economies in light of the features and philosophy of Western economics (market economy)—despite this, Russia has not gotten anything from the capitalist West and the world center of its leadership, the United States of America, except very little which does not amount to anything that would have an obvious effect in saving the Russian economy and society. Rather, the United Staes has used the outcome of that severe change in Russia in planned ways to weaken Russia internally and with respect to its international position in order to marginalize it as a great power.

The conflicts of today and yesterday are increasing in severity, especially between the historical powers in the world. These conflicts have an economic essence, especially in what relates to strategic resources, at the forefront of which stands oil, since it is the basic foundation of growth for any technological development, that development whose importance is increasing for the great states, including Russia, which lost its most important oil deposits with the loss of important oil regions that until recently were part of the Soviet Union. Because of that, within the next decade or two Russia will become an oil-importing state, so it will have to ensure that oil can be obtained from foreign sources. Here the Persian Gulf resumes a new importance to Russia. However, this time there is an added dimension to the geographic security one, one that has a direct and obvious connection to universal policies based on the control of oil resources. Needless to say, the United States has similar policies, as is obvious and cannot be concealed. Again there is a high level of competition between East and West.

In light of all that, what will be the characteristics of future Russian policy toward the Persian Gulf region, and toward Iraq as the most important power in the region?

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This complex question, which has regional and international ramifications, is essential for Russia, not only in light of today's circumstances, but also with respect to Russia's entire future.

Arising from this understanding, the Russian diplomatic mission, which is engaged in outlining the features of future policy, will direct its activity decisively toward working on creating principal gateways to the region. In order that these gateways have effective weight, which would ensure guaranteed and practical results on the ground, Iraq stands out as the most powerful and most important of the Gulf factors, because of its geopolitical importance in the region and the world, because of its huge natural resources, the foremost of which is oil. The Russians realize, just as others do, that one out of 10 tons of oil in the world is from Iraq, not to mention the fact that, according to experts, the estimate of Iraqi oil reserves has risen, which indicates that the estimate of Iraqi oil reserves might have increased to 360 billion barrels. With that, Iraq surpasses Saudi Arabia, to become the number one state in the world in oil reserves.

These facts, which constitute geo-strategic constants, are of utmost importance, and cannot be ignored in planning long-term foreign policy, especially for a great power like Russia. Indeed ignoring them, or putting off dealing with them, would be a kind of suicide, or at the very least a gratuitous scuttling of efforts to regain the international status of an important international actor, as long as it is subject to various pressures from its mortal and historical adversary, the West, which is currently represented by the United States of America. Russia has to realize that the conflicts of the future require above all else that it have identified its own political interests.

There is another essential and important issue, namely that there is no advantage to the policy of pragmatic partnership, which Russia has tried with the United States, but which proved to be a failure due to American determination to cause Russia to lose the opportunity on all regional and international fronts. The United States does not want an international or internal climate that would give Russia a chance to put its house in order and qualify it to again be an equal partner to the United States as it was in the recent past, and it certainly will not work to provide such a climate. Instead, the exact opposite situation prevails.

The second half of the last decade remaining in the 20th century could scarcely be a more difficult test, not only for Third World countries who have important strategic resources; however, it will be much more difficult for the great powers, because they will lose the most important elements of power if they fail to take into account and keep an eye on the factors and basic elements of conflict on the world scene.

*Mubarak Attacked; Recognition of Kuwait Called Sincere

95LH0044A Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 23 Nov 94 pp 1-2

[Commentary by Salah al-Mukhtar: "Husni the Agent; Husni the Clever!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Husni Mubarak is a strange man. The strangest thing is that he does not learn, nor does he absorb the lessons of the recent or distant past. He sees only the deviant route; he follows only the call that damages the Arab community!

In two press conferences with the Italian newspaper CORRIERE DELLA SERA and the BBC, he opened his mouth to say a lot of strange and astonishing things, forming a naive web of lies and shameful falsifications, by which he tried to appear to be an "important man" and to have a "role" and a "value" through which he has spoken and is speaking!

What did the Mamluke Husni Mubarak say? It would be beneficial to take his words according to the subjects he raised, so that we can reveal his motives and goals in his meeting with the Italian newspaper. He wanted to cast doubt on Iraq's decision to recognize Kuwait when he said: "Is President Saddam Husayn serious in recognizing Kuwait, or is it a tactical move?" Mubarak repeated the same idea in his interview with Radio London, when he said: "We hope that it will be a real step," meaning the recognition of Kuwait!

One who reads or hears this statement must find himself asking the legitimate question: Can it be that the head of a state does not understand—to this extent—the meaning of events and their ramifications?

A joint Iraqi-Russian communique was issued confirming Iraq's readiness to recognize Kuwait. Then, the recognition was issued by the National Assembly and ratified by the Revolution Command Council. Therefore the recognition was done "legally." Later, copies of the official recognition were given to the Security Council. Therefore, the recognition became a part of international law.

Presumably, if Mamluke Husni were a real president with the capability of a real president, he could ask his experts on international law—and there are many in Egypt—about the meaning of the Iraqi step, so that he would not appear to be an ignoramus who does not know that Iraq's step was complete in all its internal and external elements. Can it be that this Mamluke does not know that? It is most likely that he did know, because the primary American condition for its Mamluke is that he should be confined to a text and not be allowed to deviate from it. It is illogical that Husni, who is well known for his weakness and dependence on his lord and master, the director of the Central Intelligence Agency, would be willing to violate such matters.

Therefore, why cast doubt on Iraq's action? If we consider the statements of "his friends" in Kuwait who spoke before Mamluke Husni spoke, and if we review the statements of the "viper," Madeleine Albright, who preceded the rulers of Kuwait in stating that the recognition of Kuwait was not enough, we can understand that Husni was only repeating what he had to repeat within his public role. Husni Mubarak has been told to cast

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doubt on every step taken by Iraq in response to the Security Council and its resolutions, aimed at lifting the blockade from the Iraqi people. His role is also to shape public opinion in Egypt, so that the other crimes that this Mamluke is perpetrating against the people of Iraq will be acceptable, on grounds that Iraq is not serious with regard to its decisions!

At this point Husni's slavish collaboration triumphs over his intellectual and political naivete and backwardness and exposes his true nature as a mere agent, stripped of personality and incapable of debate or opposition!

Husni has switched to another part of his role, which was prepared in Washington in advance so that he could repeat the lies that he uttered before, during, and after the aggression against Iraq. He says that he tried by every means to discover a way out, by suggesting to President Saddam Husayn that an Arab summit be held. He then tried again at the request of George Bush to organize an attempt at mediation in participation with Algeria, but that Saddam Husayn refused.

Apparently, the mentally-deficient Mamluke no longer remembers events recorded on video tape, which the world learned about from the Cairo Summit, held immediately after Iraq's entry into Kuwait. That summit was attended by many heads of state, who saw and witnessed Husni preparing the climate to issue illegal resolutions in the name of the Arab League to condemn Iraq, so that the criminal George Bush could use them to send American forces to the Arab Gulf and to issue Security Council resolutions to strike at Iraq!

King Husayn, Yasir 'Arafat, and President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in particular recall how Husni was struck with tyrannical hysteria when they did not want to issue any resolution condemning Iraq and, instead, worked to contact Iraq and hold a mini-summit. This had previously been agreed upon, in order to find a solution to the crisis within the Arab family. However, Husni Mubarak strongly rejected that and insisted on issuing a resolution condemning Iraq. Later, through American documents, it became clear that the text of the statement that Husni Mubarak submitted to that Arab Summit had been prepared in the American State Department, and that the latter had asked Mubarak to thwart the Arab solution and cancel the mini Arab summit. The reason was that it would reach an Arab solution, blocking the way for America to launch a full scale attack on Iraq!

These facts, which Arab and world public opinion know, confirm the fact that Mubarak was practicing deceit when he "advised" President Saddam Husayn to reach a peaceful solution. He was also lying with his guileless claims that Bush had asked for mediation, because Bush—as his statements and the public and official statements of every American official prove—vehemently rejected any mediation or dialogue with Iraq!

This brings us to a question: Why is Husni so intent on this type of lie? It is clear that he is trying to tilt America more toward him. Apparently, he is under the pressure of feelings of deep uneasiness concerning his future, after the American press' recent attack on him, accusing him of violating human rights and of violating the blockade imposed against Libya. Thus, he fabricated these preposterous lies to gain the Americans' approval, because those lies showed Bush in a posture of trying to reach a peaceful solution while Iraq was rejecting it. How would we describe this? It does not need description; it describes itself.

Perhaps the biggest lies that confirm that Husni Mubarak is a big, clever, sick buffoon are his strange allegations that he "clearly told Bush, during the war against Iraq, that he opposed the idea of advancing to Baghdad and that invading Iraq and arresting or killing its leader would be a serious mistake." Mubarak said that "he made it clear to Bush that, if he decided to march to Baghdad, he (Mubarak) would go to the UN on Egypt's behalf to oppose that publicly."

This statement makes Mubarak appear as if dressed in clothes 10 times bigger than his real size. Think how he would appear! This man is an example of a psychologically sick president, lacking inhibitions and memory! It also proves that he is illiterate, not just naive and superficial. George Bush himself said that he was unable to march to Baghdad for fear of the enormous losses that would befall his army and the huge financial costs that would overwhelm America's capability. This statement settles the debate over the reason for the American forces' not proceeding on to Baghdad. Certainly, it was the intense fear concerning the ferocious Iraqi resistance that would have changed the American march into a catastrophe worse than Napoleon's when he marched against Moscow, and it would have had a worse effect on the American people than Vietnam!

However, Mamluke Husni forgets that and assumes for himself a position that would confer on himself the responsibility for that. Husni pictures himself a hero and Bush's equal, so that he can forget, even for an instant, that he is a mere worthless Mamluke! He thinks that he could suggest to Bush or set forth conditions for Bush, despite the fact that the latter was rejecting, in fits of hysteria comparable to obscene abuse, any suggestion from his major allies. Did he not revile Japan and Germany just for being reluctant to share in financing the attack on Iraq? Did he not threaten France with economic destruction if it persisted with "Mitterrand's plan," which was based on a part of the 12 April 1990 initiative put forth by President Saddam Husayn? It was the part pertaining to linking a solution to the Kuwait issue with a resolution of the Palestinian issue. Consequently France abandoned it.

All the world still remembers the caustic remarks of Bush and Baker and their jibes against their chief allies. Could the puny Mubarak, who does not know how to control his laughter, be able to quarrel with Bush, make a proposal, and set conditions for him? This is a fantasy

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and a daydream that possess abnormal people whose heads are empty. They compensate for those empty heads with fantasy-filled dreams [literally: dreams filled with chicken and meat]. Mr. President, you were and still are a mere "child" of a Mamluke who is completely powerless, except for the power of collaboration. This is a well-known description of you that cannot be denied. Your place is in the ranks to serve, not with the masters.

You should recall, Mr. President, (heroic and astute) that the people of Iraq had prepared for urban battles that they wanted to occur, so that America would see its greatest war catastrophe ever. Your previous master, Bush, was aware that Iraq's cities would be more dangerous than the forests of Vietnam. He studied the lessons of the battles of al-Manaqish, Bubiyan Island, and the Kuwaiti Airport, which were fought with Iraqi forces, and in which the Iraqi forces were victorious. He decided to cease fire unilaterally.

Last but not least, the president of Egypt's Mamlukes, Husni, changed his position to agitate anew for continuing the blockade against the Iraqi people. He told Radio London that, "there are still other articles whose implementation the Security Council deems necessary, pertaining to nuclear, chemical, and other materials." Husni's allegations contradict the reports of the UN Special Committee, whose committees have acknowledged that Iraq has completed destroying its chemical weapons, biological materials, nuclear facilities, and medium-range missiles! Therefore, Husni's words are agitating for the blockade to continue.

Someone might protest, saying that he meant certain information pertaining to Iraq's program, and not weapons and materials. At this point, we must stop for a moment since, if he really meant that, he made a bad mistake, impermissible for a qualified and competent head of state, because precision in statements by heads of state is a very serious matter because the lives of millions could depend on that precision.

The disparity between "certain information" that the Special Committee claimed Iraq has not yet submitted and "materials and weapons" is very great. Any child would know the difference. What is the situation when the speaker is a senior military man and a head of state? There is no escaping the conclusion that he intentionally confused materials and information in order to lead his audience to believe that Iraq still possesses chemical and nuclear weapons.

Our problem with Mamluke Husni Mubarak is that he has no memory. He lacks the faculty of profound comprehension and the ability to learn from lessons. Therefore, he makes mistakes and gets into hot water, which kindles the wrath of his master squatting in CIA headquarters. We cannot avoid making a primary and a secondary conclusion. The primary conclusion is that Husni Mubarak's statement is merely an echo of his master's words. That was the most prominent characteristic of the Mamlukes who ruled Egypt for a while. However, they are now returning, but they have stripped off their knighthood ethics. As for the secondary conclusion, it is that Mamluke Husni is being turned upside down by his feeling that his American master is "cooking up" an unpleasant surprise for him in the near future. Therefore, he behaves like a clever buffoon who has lost whatever mental acumen he had and who dances without tambourines.

*Religious Leaders Interviewed on Blockade

95LH0042A Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic 9 Nov 94 pp 22-23

[Interview with religious leaders by Suhayr 'Abd-al-Wahid and Muhsin Jawad; place and date not given: "Starvation of Iraqi People Is a Crime Proscribed by Religious Law"—first two paragraphs are ALIF BA' introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Those who subject the Iraqi people to starvation disregard the facts of religion and history. They boast about religion, human rights, and applying laws and values, but persistently ignore Iraq's right to life. They also disregard the book of God and the Sunnah of his Prophet Muhammad, when he said: "He whose appetite is satisfied while his neighbor beside him starves believes not in me. He knows."

What do men of religion say regarding this clear disregard of the Koran and the Prophet's Sunnah by rulers and regimes who claim Islam and an obligation to its precepts?

With Shaykh al-Kasanzani

[ALIF BA'] We visited Shaykh Muhammad 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kasanzani al-Husayni, professor of the World Supreme Kasanzaniyah School, who said:

[Kasanzani] What our Iraqi people are being subjected to by a plot aimed at their strength is a matter without parallel, save for the blockade of Muslims by the polytheists in the siege of al-Khandaq. We must view this in that light. We must beseech the Creator to distract this community from its sorrow and anguish. We must be graced with patience. He said in the name of God the Merciful: "Be steadfast, and your steadfastness is only in God."

Starving God's Muslim people, and particularly the spark of this blockade and the turmoil of its fire, has been ignited by those who claim Islam, and who embrace God's holy house and mankind's tombs. Unfortunately these hands aid and abet the polytheists and infidels against the Muslim Iraqi people who, within their heritage, embrace a group of the Prophet's virtuous family, all of them gathered around God. He said: "Oh ye who believe, do not accept these unbelievers without faith." What if they are foreign unbelievers? We must see that they have committed an unpardonable crime.

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Today, we must pray to God that He protect and watch over President Saddam Husayn. In His name, we call on all those who support the World Supreme Kasanzaniyah School to pledge absolute support for his jihadist position, which has frightened the evildoers. It represents his rejection of the most vicious practices and outrageous blackmail imposed upon our patient Muslim Iraqi people by imperialist circles, led by the greatest of tyrants, the United States of America.

Religion of Islam, the Religion of Brothers

[ALIF BA'] Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim al-Mudarris, mufti of the Iraqi [Diyar], talked about the prophetic hadith [tradition] that says: "He who satisfies his appetite while his neighbor starves believes not in me. He knows."

[Mudarris] The telling of this hadith with several expressions concerning the Prophet's presence was aimed at rejecting complete belief, i.e., there is no complete belief for he who is rich, eats, is satisfied, and drinks in his house, while knowing the conditions of his starving neighbor, and who does not show him mercy, helping him with money or whatever will alleviate his hunger as much as possible. This is a basic principle in the Islamic religion. It is the religion of full brothers and true friends, the religion of mercy and compassion. God said to us in the Holy Koran: "The Prophet of God is a good example for you."

He also said with regard to His Prophet: A prophet has come to you from among yourselves. He is compassionate and merciful to believers.

Al-'Abbasi: Sacrifice and Patience

[ALIF BA'] We went to the al-Imam al-A'zam Mosque and met with Shaykh 'Abd-al-Ghaffar al-'Abbasi, who spoke to us about the believer's trial, which is in accordance with the extent of his faith.

[Al-'Abbasi] The most tried are the prophets. God said: "We try you so that we may know those who strive and are steadfast. We test your actions." In man's life, the only honor is in striving in God's way. The duty of one who believes is to reach out to his kin, his neighbor, or friend if he is hungry, wronged, or deprived. This is a situation that personifies humanity. He is a believer. If this is not the case, faith has no usefulness and is of no benefit. One might sin, but he is a believer if he leaves this feeling to others. Therefore, it behooves us to recall what our president and leader, Saddam Husayn, said regarding the gift of patience and hope. Facing up to the events among his people and the children of his nation, he said: "Yes, we do not accept our people dying of hunger. It is unimaginable that Iraqis might starve. We and God will open all existing warehouses to them."

People of Iraq Will Not Starve

[ALIF BA'] Judge Ibrahim Radi al-Husni, chief judge of the Kurdistan Court:

[Al-Husni] So long as Muslim Iraqis adhere to the hadiths and Sunnah of the Prophet, and the hadiths and Sunnah of God and His blessed associates, and so long as the president and leader, Saddam Husayn, is president of these believing Muslim people, Iraqis will not starve. The historic position, which Islamic jurists have unanimously approved with regard to the Prophet, who is an ancestor of our leader Saddam Husayn, is that he looked after his neighbor, even if he was a Jew. He could not be happy that he was hungry. I call out for help to the consciences of Islamic peoples in neighboring countries to put pressure on their leaders to break the blockade against the Muslim Iraqi people and tear apart the shackles, which God has not empowered.

[ALIF BA'] From al-Najaf, we talked with Dr. 'Adnan 'Ali al-Buka'.

[Al-Buka'] We see that civilization and principle in imperialist countries are dust and pretty tools for show, which they do not hesitate to abandon. Then, the ugly faces appear as they are. What it means is that need, hunger, and sickness are imposed on a people who do not beg for wealth from anyone, but rather, it is the blessings God grants them that allows their children to live in ease and comfort. How can the world look at this situation without denouncing the crimes against children, the elderly, weak, and sick? What all levels of Iraqi people are suffering as a result of the blockade is no mystery. We should recall the words of the Prophet Muhammad: "He who has not helped Muslims is not one of them."

Undoubtedly, the responsibility of wealthy Muslims becomes more critical in the face of need. Therefore, it surpasses the financial duties imposed and assessed by law in cases like this.

Seek Refuge in God

[ALIF BA'] We spoke with the scholar al-Sayyid Murtada al-Musawi about what the world's Muslims should do concerning America and those countries that intend to starve the Iraqi people.

[Al-Musawi] We call on Muslims to seek refuge in God's way and adhere to the principles of the true Islam. I call on all ulema and religious leaders in the Islamic world to raise their voices on behalf of lifting the unjust blockade from Iraq. This is one of their religious and humanitarian duties.

We need to be steadfast, so that we can support our leader Saddam Husayn. He is the most steadfast and tested. God inspired his patience and fighting spirit. Muslims must do their sacred duty to put pressure on America and its allies. This is the Muslim's duty. Silence about right is a mute devil. The true Muslim will raise his voice and urge everyone, both Muslim and non-Muslim, to demand the rights of the Muslims of Iraq and to lift the iniquitous blockade.

Denunciation

[ALIF BA'] We met with the custodian of the al-Haydariyah School, Haydar Muhammad Hasan al-Kayandar.

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[Al-Kayandar] From al-Haydariyah School, we fervently denounce the Zionist-American campaign against the citadel of steadfastness and the pinnacle of Islam. This attack subjects the Muslim Iraqi people to starvation and sickness by imposing an economic blockade against them. We have the ideal example in the hadiths of the Prophet Muhammad who said: "Muslims in their friendly relations and compassion are like the body. If one part of it breaks down, the rest of the body looks after and protects it." Our Prophet has commanded us to unite Muslims into one power against the polytheists' attack.

The iniquitous blockade against Iraq prohibits food, medicine, and even children's milk. The Islamic community must shoulder its responsibility to smash this blockade imposed against Muslims by polytheists. God will lead us to a true position, in which we shall see Muslims united in solidarity with the embattled Muslims of Iraq, steadfast against the forces of evil and tyranny.

God said: Adhere to God's way, everyone, and be not divided.

Iraqi-Jordanian Transportation Minutes Signed

JN1901205895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1545 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 19 Jan (INA)—The minutes from the meetings of the fifth session of the General Assembly of the Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Company were signed here today.

Minister of Transport and Communications Dr. Ahmad Murtada Ahmad signed the minutes for Iraq, with Jordanian Minister of Transportation Samir Qa'war signed for Jordan.

The minutes endorsed the company's financial report for 1994, as well as the operating and financial reports for 1995, which seek to ensure a smooth flow of goods and food supplies between the two fraternal countries to promote their common interests.

Jordan's Qa'war on Railroad Links

JN1901215595 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Engineer Samir Qa'war, Jordanian minister of transportation, held talks in Baghdad today with Dr. Ahmad Murtada, fraternal Iraq's minister of transport and communications, on the issue of constructing a railroad that links between Jordan and Iraq.

In statements to the Jordanian News Agency, PETRA, Qa'war said that constructing the railroad will require technical studies by both sides to assess its feasibility. He added that there is a railway line that links al-Hadithah to Baghdad and branches to the Syrian border. He noted that this line can be linked to the Jordanian-Iraqi border and can continue through al-Mafraq, Amman, Ma'an, and down to al-'Aqabah. Qa'war added that the construction of this line will depend on a study to determine the amounts of goods that will be exchanged between the two countries and which could be transported by trains. The Jordanian minister said that the transportation sector represents a good field for investment and that railroads are the best means to transport goods despite their high basic costs. He noted the future heralds the possibility of embarking on such a long-term project.

UN Delegate Lodges Protest on Iranian 'Violations'

JN1901122695 Baghdad INA in English 1025 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York, Jan. 19 (INA)—Iraq has afresh protested to the United Nations on the continuous violations of the Iranian regime of the ceasfire and Tehran accord on the buffer zone between the two countries over the period 23 December to 10 January.

In a letter to the UN secretary general, the Iraqi permanent delegate to the UN confirmed that an Iranian helicopter was seen flying in low altitude inside the Iranian borders parallel to the international frontiers with Iraq.

The letter read that Iranian forces had fired mortar shelling towards the city of al-Faw but it fell on deserted area.

Meanwhile, other Iranian helicopter has been located coming from the Iranian depths in al-Shahabi area along the railway but it vanished inside Iranian territories.

The letter has also conceded that Iran had confiscated Iraqi vessel tag, "7th of April" and the Hindorasian one, "Donai."

The Iraqi permanent representative to UN asked that the letter be circulated among Security Council members.

Death Toll in Kurdish Factional Fighting Said Over 100

NC1901145995 Paris AFP in English 1439 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Geneva, Jan 19 (AFP)—Fighting between rival factions in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq has left at least 100 persons dead in the past week, the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] said Thursday [19 January].

The ICRC added that one of the hospitals in the city of Irbil had been hit by artillery fire during the fighting, and some neighborhoods had been evacuated.

Kurdish sources had put the toll at several hundred dead since the fighting started on December 24.

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There are four ICRC delegates in the area, the agency said.

The fighting is between supporters of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and those of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK). A ceasefire called January 9 has not held.

PUK Accepts Cease-Fire Proposed by Kurdish Parties

NC1901154795 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1505 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Patriotic Union of Kurdistan Secretary General Jalal Talabani, in reply to a cable sent to him yesterday by 17 Kurdish parties, has announced his approval of their call for a cease-fire, a halt to all military operations, and commitment to the two draft peace plans submitted on 9 and 16 January. The following is the text of the brother secretary general's cable:

To representatives of the Kurdish parties and dignitaries in the city of Irbil from Jalal:

We announce our commitment to a cease-fire and to the two peace plans dated 9 and 16 January in letter and spirit. We believe that monitoring committees must be formed to supervise the cease-fire and ensure commitment to it by the various parties. We have discussed with Mr. Karim Ahmad [not further identified] and his colleagues the need for a similar move by both sides and to decide on a suitable timeframe for the supervisory committees to arrive. We propose that Dr. Ahmad al-Shalabi [chairman of the Unified Iraqi National Congress] come and take part in this process. Kindly notify us of your common stand following the arrival of Dr. Ahmad al-Shalabi. [signed] Jalal Talabani, 18 January 1995.

Kurdish Villages Shelled by 'Regime's Artillery'

NC1901162795 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1505 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The ruling regime in Baghdad has shelled villages neighboring Taqtaq area, in Irbil Governorate, with heavy artillery. Reports coming from the area indicate that at 0930 this morning the regime's artillery shelled the villages of [word indistinct], (Humarak), Shewasur, (Andun), Kani Rash, and upper and lower Marzina. No reports are available on the casualties resulting from the shelling.

Article Denounces Kurdish Leaders Over Fighting

JN1901213495 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 11 Jan 95 p 1

[Article by Hani Wuhayyib: "It Is Extremely Ironic When Calamity Induces Laughter"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sometimes, one is puzzled by peculiar developments. But a moment of reflection dispels this puzzlement. In the past, it was said that knowing the circumstances surrounding a certain development leaves no room for amazement. One of the peculiar developments I have in mind concerns the news reports regarding fighting among agents in our beloved northern Iraq, and the acts of suppression, oppression, looting, and pillage committed in broad daylight in the dark and burdensome winter in Kurdistan. Another peculiar development concerns the dialogue agent leaders have held on a foreign radio to resolve their problems and talk about draft cease-fire agreements to halt the fighting. This dialogue was held between two petty agents on 9 January. One of the agents represented the group of traitor Mas'ud Barzani, whereas the other represented the group of traitor Jalal Talabani. The two interlocutors traded accusations, such as the theft of thousands of cars by the so-called prime minister and his gangs, the killing of people en masse, the seizure of institutions, the confiscation of public funds, and other shameless practices. These two petty agents were bragging about these incidents in the dialogue held between them on Radio Monte Carlo. From time to time, the two interlocutors complained about breaks in transmission.

That is how petty agents are tampering with the destiny of our Kurdish people in the northern part of our dear homeland. The agents currently live in one area. Nonetheless, they fight and slay one another. They cannot meet face to face; they communicate over foreign radios. Thus, the odorous smell of their agentry fills the air. Moreover, our Kurdish people have seen how petty these agents are. These agents hold in complete disregard the Kurdish people's blood and destiny. In the past, Arabs said that it is extremely ironic when calamity induces laughter. Nonetheless, the fire of calamity is being fed and nurtured. It will burn the scoundrel agents with its flames, and the Kurdish people will return to the lap of the motherland to live under the canopy of their beloved leader Saddam Husayn.

You only have to wait and see.

Fighting Slows Food Distribution to Kurdish Areas

JN2001065295 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 12 Jan 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Sa'dun Khalifah, chairman of the Red Crescent Society, has announced that the third consignment of food and medical aid to the governorates of the Autonomous Region is ready to be dispatched to those governorates and to be distributed among the needy families and hospitals. Khalifah said that the fighting between the agent gangs in that region is preventing the consignment from reaching our people there. He affirmed that the society is ready to deliver the aid as soon as security conditions in the governorates of the Autonomous Region permit.

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Islamic Oppositionist on Purpose of London Visit

MM1701165395 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 16 Jan 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH—Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, arrived in London yesterday. He told AL-HAYAH that he will present to Iraqi opposition circles and "some politicians and parliamentarians from various parts of the world" a plan "noting the stage which the Iraqi issue has reached, the people's suffering inside the country, and the regime's practices."

He added that he "will discuss the conditions of the opposition inside the country and the status of the jihad and its escalation in order to make 1995 a year for implementing the Iraqi people's political will and rescuing them from their suffering." Al-Hakim pointed out that the plan "includes field proposals and our view of a mechanism for the field and political confrontation to topple Saddam's regime."

He urged world public opinion to "make 1995 a year for defending the Iraqi people's rights." He stressed that he had launched "a campaign to mobilize the Iraqis' efforts to achieve the people's wish, namely to get rid of dictatorship." Al-Hakim was received at the airport by British MP Emma Nicholson (Conservative Party). He will meet today with Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey. He is expected to hold meetings with Iraqi oppositionists and receive members of Arab and Islamic communities.

Oil Minister Says Reserves Second Largest in World

JN1801191795 Baghdad INA in English 1130 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Jan 18 INA—Iraq's Oil Minister Dr. Safa' Hadi Jawad has emphasised that Iraq is possessing the second largest verified oil reserve in the world and could after raising the blockade be the second possible largest production quota within OPEC's production ceiling.

The Iraqi minister has further said in a talk published today in AL-THAWRAH daily on the anniversary of the U.S.-led aggression that Iraq has been able, thanks to wisdom of President Saddam Husayn, to reconstruct all that was destroyed in the U.S.-led aggression in an exceptional time and managed to drill more than 103 oil wells in 1994 alone.

The minister said the United States and its allies had in January 1991 carried out the fiercest aggression on Iraq targeted the destruction of the Iraqi infrastructure particularly oil installations which are of vital importance for the national economy. Their aim was to weaken Iraq's strength and renascence it had achieved in all areas and used for serving the Arab nation and her issues of destiny.

He elaborated that all oil refineries which were producing oil derivatives at a capacity of 700,000 barrels perday were destroyed and their capacity had become limited after cessation of military operations directly. The aggressors had also destroyed oil production installations of the capacity of 3.25 million barrels a day and bombed oil products storages, pipelines, pumping stations and fuel stations all over the country.

The minister has further said that oil sector cadres were after the stop of aggression able to embark on reconstruction campaign of the damaged oil installations and oil refineries were given priority in this respect.

The Iraqi oil minister has further made it clear that preventing Iraq from performing its natural role on the world oil market and hindering its activities through imposition of unjust resolutions have created abnormal situation in the region especially for the traditional buyers of Iraqi oil, but, he added, dispensing with energies such as those available in Iraq was something irrational under any consideration.

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U.S. Rejects Proposal To Embargo Oil Purchases From Iran

TA1901130695 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Jan 95 p A5

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] U.S. Administration officials recently rejected a proposal from Israeli sources to embargo Iranian oil purchased by U.S. firms.

A document sent to Israel states that the United States does not import Iranian oil, although U.S. oil companies buy one-fifth of Iran's oil production on the international market, and this is subsequently sold and refined in European and Asian countries. The U.S. officials believe that even if the U.S. firms were to stop their purchases, Iran would have no difficulty selling its oil on the international market because of its low production costs. Consequently, they believe there is no sense in imposing an embargo.

In a lecture in Washington two months ago, Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in Lebanon who also deals with Iranian affairs, estimated that purchases of Iranian oil by U.S. firms amount to $3 billion per year and that this money goes into the Iranian treasury and helps finance terrorist activities and the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction.

Lubrani said that the voluminous business U.S. firms do with Iran raises doubts about the credibility of the administration, which calls for curbing Iran. He called on the Americans to curtail trade with the Iranian regime. [passage omitted]

Right Wing Reacts to Rabin-'Arafat Talks

TA1901190295 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 19 Jan 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The right wing has sharply attacked the outcome of the Rabin-'Arafat meeting. Rabin's announcement that he will continue to implement the Oslo accord despite the PLO's grave violations of the agreement is another stage in the collapse of his government's political concept, Likud Knesset Member [MK] Beni Begin said. Begin added: The sycophantic announcement on the settlement freeze will not help. SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] will not join the coalition if, in its Sunday meeting, the government decides on a building freeze in Greater Jerusalem. Our correspondent Menashe Raz reports that after consulting with Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef, MK Der'i, SHAS party chairman, said tonight that even if the High Court of Justice approves its agreement with Labor, SHAS will get off the fence and join the opposition in voting no confidence in the government.

If the government decides to freeze construction around Jerusalem, this will be a declaration of war on hundreds of thousands of residents, Ma'ale Adumim Mayor Beni Qashri'el told the Greater Jerusalem Forum, a body set up today to decide on ways to pursue the struggle for continued building around the capital. [passage omitted]

Ben-Eli'ezer To Support Construction in Jerusalem Vicinity

TA2001120795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 20 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer says that in next Sunday's [22 January] cabinet session he will support the continuation of construction activity in the settlements surrounding Jerusalem. Minister Ben-Eli'ezer told Qol Yisra'el that a struggle is being waged over Jerusalem, adding that Greater Jerusalem is an existential rather than a literary or philosophical concept. Ben-Eli'ezer says we will not play around with maps and borders. Israel is the party that has determined the borders, although the Palestinians do not necessarily accept this.

Minister Ben-Eli'ezer added that Ma'ale Adumim and Giv'at Ze'ev are outside the municipal borders of Jerusalem but nevertheless constitute part of Jerusalem.

Rabin on Ramon's Return, Need To End 'Anarchy'

TA1901180195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin supports bringing Hayim Ramon and his colleagues back to Labor. He has proposed that they initially form an alignment, with joint responsibility and decisionmaking. Our party affairs correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that, according to Rabin, anarchy in Labor must stop, even if this should give some members a headache. The prime minister made the remarks in a meeting with council heads and Labor activists.

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Compensation Withheld Until Iraq Resumes Oil Sales

JN1901211795 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 19 Jan 95

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A United Nations official said compensation payment to the victims of the Gulf crisis will have to wait until Iraq resumes oil sales. Michael Raboin, assistant secretary general of the Geneva-based Gulf War Compensation Committee, said his committee had no funds to settle 2.4 million claims filed under United Nations resolutions. The claims cover personal, corporate, and government aspects of the losses caused by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Raboin told the "News at Ten" correspondent Dima Hamarinah that compensation payments have been put on hold until further funds are available.

[Begin Raboin recording] Unfortunately, the payment of these awards for the most part will have to wait for the resumption of oil sales by the government of Iraq because the commission has been set up with payment to be paid from 30 percent of Iraq's oil sales. That was the decision of the Security Council of the United Nations and we have adapted that by our governing council as well.

Unfortunately, the second installment of Category B was issued last month and that would have called for a payment of $5.2 million, which we did not have. We don't have that money left in the fund. So, the governing council decided for the time being that they could not make those payments. If more money materializes under Resolution 787, we would expect that the Category B, injury and death claimants, could be the first ones to be paid. But, in any case, to meet the requirements of the thousands of decisions that I just announced, we would need to have Iraqi oil sales because the money is quite substantial. [end recording]

House Committees Elect New Chairmen

JN1501213395 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The House of Representatives has agreed to reorganize some of its committees as some of their chairmen are now members of the government. Representative 'Abdallah al-Nusur was elected chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, and Representative Hammad Abu-Jamus was elected as its rapporteur. Representative Hashim al-Dabbas was elected as chairman of the Financial Affairs Committee and Representative Munir Subar was elected as its rapporteur. Mr. 'Abd-al-Majid al-Aqtash was elected as chairman of the Education Committee and Mr. 'Ali al-Shatti was elected as chairman of the Agricultural Committee.

[Amman Radio Jordan in English at 1200 GMT on 14 January reports that Dr. al-Nusur, the newly-elected Foreign Affairs Committee chairman, said in a statement that during forthcoming meetings, the committee would focus attention on the issue of Israeli withdrawal from Jordanian territory on February 10, as it is one of the major events for Jordan.

Dr. al-Nusur said the Israeli withdrawal from Jordanian territory will not be supervised by United Nations' international observers, and there will be no demilitarized zones between Jordan and Israel once the withdrawal is completed. He added he hoped that would be followed by Israeli withdrawal from Syrian, Lebanese, and Palestinian territories.

The Foreign Affairs Committee chairman said his panel will contact international missions accredited to Jordan to discuss economic arrangements for the region.]

Columnist Views Talk About Israeli 'Threat'

JN1901180995 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Jan 95 p 16

["An Issue and an Opinion" column by Salamah 'Ukur: "Just a Question"]

[FBIS Translated Text] So much talk about a possible Israeli threat to the Jordanian entity only means that those who say such things are standing side by side with those who wage a campaign of skepticism against the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty—even if they pretend to support it.

Talk about an Israeli plan to reestablish Jewish places in Jordan after the "Jordanian occupation" is nonsense and serves Israel's purposes. Such talk seeks to cause confusion and concern and spread fear among our people that the Jordanian-Israeli treaty is the beginning of the end of the national Jordanian entity and the Jordanian state.

Those who spread such talk and try to market it among our people are the same ones who stand, in one way or another, openly or secretly, against the demarcation of the international borders of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

We are not with those who exaggerate the fruits and blessings of peace now or in the future, but we are also not with those who underestimate its importance and the fact that it is a historic achievement which restored our sovereign rights over land and water. It also forced Israel to recognize international borders with Jordan. This means that Israel was forced to abandon its Torah's ambitions or the ambitions of some of its religious or political parties to expand at the expense of Jordan. It also forced Israel to officially relinquish its old intentions of setting up greater Israel at the expense of the Arab territories. This has been witnessed by the United Nations, international organizations, and the influential member states of the Security Council.

Furthermore, I can contend that since the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, the "alternative homeland" plan has

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become something from the past—even if some Israelis and others continue to speak about it.

Hence, I want to ask: Why all this talk saying that Jordan is threatened by Israel? And why Jordan in particular?

What we know is that Israel has not officially annexed one inch of Jordanian land, so why this concern about illusionary plans or projects about Judaizing Jordan.

It is just a question, nothing more.

Paper on Pan-Arab Unity, Saudi-Yemeni Crisis, Arab Problems

JN1501123295 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 15 Jan 95 p 15

[Editorial: "Yemeni-Saudi Crisis and New Arab Order"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The fire that rose from the ashes on the Yemeni-Saudi border calls for observations on the current Arab situation as a whole, as well as the assumed future of a mechanism for dealing with new Arab problems, and the need for joint Arab action based on integration of the peoples' interests and continuity of inter-Arab relations.

The border issue between the brothers in Yemen and Saudi Arabia is not something new, it is just like the border differences between a number of Maghreb and eastern Arab countries.

For a long time, Arab relations have been witnessing rivalry, differences in political opinions, and confusion about what is supposed to govern relations between states in terms of realizing national and pan-Arab interests without jeopardizing the sovereign rights or relinquishing the more comprehensive pan-Arab interest.

Jordan has for a long time been at the forefront of those who call for reorganizing Arab relations and programming them on new bases. It called for having an all-out pan-Arab dialogue to close the pan-Arab cracks and to reach the stage of accord, agreement, and integration on firm objective bases that do not depend on personal whims and temporary interests. Nevertheless, the current Arab situation continues, as it has for decades, to spin in the same vicious circle of solidarity. This circle, which is led or joined by this or that party, moves away from any collective framework for cooperation and coordination that could remove all the time bombs from the road of real and long-term Arab solidarity—be they border issues or any other differences.

The current Arab efforts, in which His Majesty King Husayn is taking part, seek to defuse the accumulated differences between Saudi Arabia and Yemen. These are necessary efforts which should be supported to do whatever possible to prevent aggravation and deterioration in the situation between the two sisterly states.

However, the radical solution for such differences and the establishment of Arab relations—based on clear and lofty objectives—require more than temporary efforts to prevent the explosion of situations here or there.

What we hope and reiterate is the need to begin, without delay, rebuilding bridges of Arab dialogue in all directions and without reservations to reach a new Arab order based on recognition of the sovereign national rights of all Arab countries regardless of the positions or sizes. At the same time, everyone should be in harmony with the greater pan-Arab interests and our joint future, concerning which subsequent generations will have no alternative, and which is based on clarity and specific and binding mechanisms.

Paper Views Efforts To Revive Arab Solidarity

JN1501155395 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Jan 95 pp 1, 13

[Editorial: "We Support Every Joint Arab Action"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We record for this government that soon after it was formed, it began to break the stalemate in Arab relations and to correct these relations. This government is aware that Jordan's option has been and will continue to be with its nation and that Jordan will be active and able to offer sacrifices rather than being a burden.

This government did not waste any time to understand what it was asked to do in the letter of designation. The first step by the new government was a continuation and a qualitative addition to what has been realized. This step made relations with Egypt warmer. Steps should continue on the bilateral level by activating various political, economic, and social frameworks with Egypt. This should be see as a pan-Arab gain that should not be relinquished. Egypt is restoring its Arab role in accordance with new facts. The Alexandria summit gave a wider aspect to this role. In this context, this role meets with the Jordanian call to revive stalemated Arab coordination to add value to Arab weight and preserve the rights of the Arabs and their role and solidarity, on regional and international levels.

The Alexandria summit should be expanded to include Arab parties who are basic to the peace process and who cannot be bypassed. Their roles and achievement will be very beneficial, especially because Arab coordination, absent during the stage of peace talks, should not remain absent. The struggle of the Arabs for their rights, progress, and their contribution in their region and the world is not over yet, although some of its objectives and facts have changed.

Links in the chain of Arab action should be connected. Therefore, our pan-Arab role, which has historically been recognized, should be marketed again to Arab neighbors by improving relations with Syria and Iraq, based on interests realized through mutual respect and pan-Arab objectives.

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Jordan is eager to support the Palestinian brothers and to upgrade coordination and exchange opinions in order to agree on a position that supports the peace process and fosters benefits for the fraternal people. This is what Jordan seeks and what it wants to be considered as it prepares for the next meeting with the Palestinian leadership. That leadership should believe Jordan does not relinquish a right, does not refrain from extending support, and has no reservations about beneficial coordination. Jordan is very eager to have contacts that serve the peace process in all its comprehensive dimensions.

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Radios Cite Turkish Media on Kidnapping

NC1901075095

[FBIS Editorial Report] In their morning newscasts on 19 January, Lebanese radios carry no exclusive or unique reportage on the reported kidnapping of U.S. Lieutenant Colonel Mike Couillard and his 10-year-old son in Turkey. The radios broadcast reports citing the Turkish ANATOLIA NEWS AGENCY.

In its 0630 GMT newscast, Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic reports on the kidnapping and the ultimatum by "a group calling itself the Fighters for Freedom in Lebanon," saying that the Turkish news agency "gave no additional details on the claim of responsibility for this kidnapping."

In its 0545 GMT newscast, (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic also cites ANATOLIA NEWS AGENCY on the kidnapping of the U.S. lieutenant colonel and the threat to kill him if Israel fails to release Mustafa al-Dirani within 48 hours. The report cites the Turkish news agency as saying that an unidentified individual contacted it three times from abroad demanding the release of al- Dirani. The report adds: "The spokeswoman for the American Embassy in Ankara said the embassy is following reportage by the ANATOLIA NEWS AGENCY and Show Television but she explained that no one from the group had contacted the embassy."

In its newscast at 0615 GMT, Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic carries a similar report citing ANATOLIA NEWS AGENCY. The report says: "The Turkish interior minister said he has no evidence of the possible kidnapping of an American military man."

Al-Hariri: No Peace Signing in Isolation from Syria

NC1901191195 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has said that the 10 members of the Higher Media Council will be chosen according to their qualifications. Doyen of editors Milhim Karam cited al-Hariri today as saying that Lebanon is studying the agenda of the joint Lebanese-U.S. Security Committee before taking an appropriate stand. When receiving a group from the Lions' Club today, the prime minister said that many steps will be taken on the issues of day-to-day life. He believes that the economic situation is moving in a positive direction, while the financial situation is stable.

He wished for harmony among the members of the Economic and Social Council so that it can perform its duties. He noted that this experiment has not been very encouraging in many other countries.

Al-Hariri described the criticisms leveled against the budget as indiscriminate. He said that some of these accusations were made without an accurate evaluation of the budget. He said he is trying to prepare the country for the next stage.

On the peace talks, the prime minister believes that the concentration on the Syrian-Israeli track is due to the many problems existing between Syria and Israel, which are related to the complications between Lebanon and Israel. He said that if progress is made in the Syrian-Israeli track, the Lebanese-Israeli track will automatically experience a positive development. Al-Hariri affirmed that Lebanon will not sign a peace agreement in isolation from Syria.

Buwayz Views Israeli 'Agression,' U.S. Contacts

MM1901145795 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Jan 95 p 4

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by unidentified corresondent in Ifrane, Morocco; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] How do you interpret the recent Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon, which have also been tageting the suburbs of Beirut again?

[Buwayz] The Israeli aggression against Lebanon is not new, but the recent acts of aggression assume special dimensions because they targeted Beirut's suburbs directly at a time of talk about peace. It must be said that Israel should realize that these practices, to which we have been accustomed for over 20 years, have yieled no results. On the contrary, that method has had a negative impact on the international situation and on Israel itself internally. Therefore the only effective way of halting the deterioration of the security situation is an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Lebanese territory.

Nobody believes that Israel really wants peace, considering its current aggression. I believe that the Israeli aggression sometimes reflects internal Israeli calculations and is a message intended to be read beyond Lebanese borders in the Middle East.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Before the deterioration of the security situation in southern Lebanon there were incidents in the occupied territories. Israel is trying to link the situation in the south to the situation in the occupied territories, including the resistance's arms. What is your opinion?

[Buwayz] The resistance is a result of the occupation, and its arms are simply the instrument of that resistance. I believe that withdrawal is the main key. Israel's continued presence on Lebanese territory has cost Israel dearly so far, perhaps as much as the cost of all its wars against the Arabs. Not a week passes without an operation in the south. That situation should make Israel see that that method has, evidently, failed.

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[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] The question has been raised of making progress on the Lebanese track first as a way out of the current deadlock in the peace process. What do you think?

[Buwayz] We do not believe that we have any interest in getting into a race with Syria on this matter. On the contrary, we believe that a solution on the Syrian track would reflect positively on the Lebanese track.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] But there have been Israeli contacts with Syria in Washington and Europe. Have there been any such contacts with you?

[Buwayz] It is clear that, despite the high level of Syrian-Israeli negotiations and despite the fact that Syria wanted to give this round every chance after agreeing to raise the negotiation level, the round has so far produced nothing at all because the Israel hesitation about peace is still present at the leadership level.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] But what is your position on the Syrian-Israeli contacts?

[Buwayz] We are watching these negotiations. When we see Israel dealing with these negotiations negatively, we are not encouraged to take a similar step.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] But have the Israelis contacted you?

[Buwayz] Not yet.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Agreement has been reached with the U.S. Administration on security cooperation in isolation from the peace process. What is the significance of that step?

[Buwayz] The question of a security agreement with the United States was not raised. What was raised was the question of dialogue through a security committee to explain the security achievements made in Lebanon over the past four years. That is not intended to reach the point of a security agreement as much as it is intended to be explanatory meetings designed to enlighten the American side if it really wanted to amend some of the decisions it made during the war period.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Did you get any promises from the U.S. Administration on lifting the ban on Lebanon?

[Buwayz] There seems to be a U.S. desire to reconsider some of the measures, which are now unjustified. By that we mean the ban on travel by Americans to Lebanon. If the Lebanese side is required to explain the security situation, then we have no objection; but if what is required is to exploit that situation to serve political objectives outside the bilateral framework in order to have a bearing on the peace negotiations, that is not the task assigned to the Lebanese delegation.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What is on the agenda of the U.S.-Lebanese committee?

[Buwayz] It has to do with the security and interests of U.S. nationals in Lebanon. The committee will begin its meetings in Washington next month.

Palestinian Factions, Hizballah Continue Attacks

PFLP-GC Claims Attack

JN1901181895 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Jan 95

[Statement issued by a PFLP-GC official source; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] At 1430 today, 19 January 1995, corresponding to 18 Sha'ban 1415 Hegira, a group of our heroic fighters attacked a Zionist patrol on the al-Tayyibah-Rabb al-Thalathin road. The attack resulted in the destruction of two Merkava tanks, a half-track personnel carrier, and a jeep. Members of the patrol were either killed or wounded.

The Zionist enemy admitted the operation. As usual, attempting to play down the losses, the enemy admitted the injury of four of its personnel.

Concluding his statement, the PFLP-GC [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command] military source promised more details in subsequent details.

God be with us. Victory is imminent. Together we march toward the liberation of man and land.

[Signed] The PFLP-GC

5 PFLP-GC Members Killed

NC1901202595 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] AFP cited sources from the Lahd forces this evening that five members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] were killed and two Israeli soldiers were injured in a clash today about two kms from the international border, near the crossroads of (Rubb Thalathin), al-'Udaysah, and al-Tayyibah.

Our security correspondent has reported that members of the PFLP-GC set up an ambush near an abandoned house and fired artillery and machine guns toward an Israeli post in the area. In the ensuing clashes three PFLP-GC members were killed. The Israelis then sent reinforcements to the post and shelled the abandoned house, killing two more PFLP-GC members. The resistance artillery intervened and fired Katyusha rockets from the southern part of Qabrikha in the direction of Tallusah and al-Tayyibah with the intention of taking pressure off the group that clashed with the Israeli forces.

Immediately after that, Israeli helicopters combed the outskirts of Qabrikha and Frun in the central sector and their artillery shelled the valleys nearby.

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The Voice of the South radio, the mouthpiece of the Lahd forces, said that an explosive device went off this afternoon on the al-Jarmaq-al-Rayhan road, but did not mention whether there were any injuries. The radio added that the Israeli and Lahd artillery intervened and shelled the sectors opposite al-Jarmaq and al-Rayhan.

At 1415 this afternoon, engineering units of the Israeli Army detonated three explosive devices in Wadi al-'Uyun near Bayt Lif in the western sector, after an Israeli reconnaissance patrol combed the area.

Hizballah, PFLP-GC Launch Joint Attack

NC2001093395 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 20 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] According to security sources, a joint group of Hizballah and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] tried at 0130 this morning to infiltrate the security strip. When the group reached the Qabrikha valley, it encountered an Israeli ambush. The ensuing clash led to the killing of Hizballah member Dhib Muhammad Bahjat from Jibshit and a PFLP-GC member Muhammad 'Abd 'Ali. There is no information on the identity of the two individuals who were wounded in the clash.

The Islamic Resistance has issued a statement saying that yesterday evening its men encountered an Israeli patrol in the area of Qabrikha-Wadi al-Saluqi. It said that Dhib Muhammad Bahjat from Jibshit was killed. The statement did not give any other details. [passage omitted]

Israeli helicopters have strafed the Jabal 'Ali al-Tahir area and al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa with heavy machine guns.

Timor Goksel, official spokesman of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon, [UNIFIL] today said that a mechanized Israeli patrol yesterday opened tank fire at a home in al-Tayyibah and that rounds fell near an Irish UNIFIL post.

Lahd Says Israel 'Losing Patience'

NC2001100695 Paris AFP in English 0900 GMT 20 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Marj 'Uyun, Lebanon, Jan 20 (AFP)—Israel is "losing patience" with Lebanon's official support for guerrilla groups like the Iranian-backed Hizballah, the commander of Israel's proxy militia in south Lebanon warned.

"The situation is not very calm and unless it changes, the Lebanese government will have to pay the consequences," Antoine Lahd, a retired Lebanese army general who heads the South Lebanon Army militia, told AFP.

The head of the Israeli-trained and financed militia gave the interview on Thursday [19 January] a few hours before Israeli troops killed five Palestinian guerrillas in a clash near the international border that also left two soldiers wounded.

"The Israelis are becoming nervous. They are losing patience and are about to do something because they see that Hizballah is leading the Lebanese government," Lahd said.

"They can shake up the Lebanese government at any moment and by any means," he said without elaborating.

Lahd warned that in case of a confrontation he would be unable to intercede with the Israelis, saying his influence with them had diminished.

"Certainly the Israelis have no interest in massacring the population (in south Lebanon) but they could force them to flee the region," he said.

In 1993, Israel carried out a seven-day blitz on south Lebanon, killing more than 100 people and forcing hundreds of thousands to flee their homes.

Lahd commands a 3,000-man militia which controls, along with Israeli soldiers, an 850-square-kilometer (340-square mile) "security zone" north of the international border.

3 Hizballah Members Killed

NC2001111695 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1030 GMT 20 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Three saboteurs from Hizballah were killed in the Wadi al-Saluqi area at dawn today. Following an operation near al-Tayyibah last night in which five Palestinian saboteurs were killed, Israeli helicopters overflew the area, spotting and firing on a subversive group in Wadi al-Saluqi. This was followed by an artillery bombardment of the same area, which led to the killing of the three saboteurs. The Voice of Light, which belongs to the saboteurs, admitted that three Hizballah members were killed this morning. One of the saboteurs was Dhib Muhammad Bahjat from Jibshit.

At about 0930 today, saboteurs shelled the 'Ali al-Tahir and al-Dabshah positions from their posts in the al-Nabatiyah area. There were no casualties. South Lebanese Army and Israeli army artillery returned fire, silencing the sources.

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Religious Authority: Talk of Peace 'Premature'

MM2001120695 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 19 Jan 95 p 5

[Interview with Dr. Muhammad Sa'id Ramadan al-Buti, "a senior Syrian religious authority," by Ibrahim Humaydi in Damascus; date not given: "No Peace Without Lifting Hand of Aggression and Recovering Rights in Full"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Humaydi] What is Islam's position on establishing a state of peace with Israel?

[Al-Buti] We must talk first about Israel in particular then move on to talk generally. It must be realized first that the atmosphere Israel is imposing in and around the occupied land is an aggressive atmosphere. The usurpation exists, the aggression is continuing, the settlements are expanding, and the threat to build more settlement is still there. So it is premature to talk about the permissibility of peace with Israel in these conditions, or to confirm the permissibility of peace, with or without conditions. Because by embarking on the aspects I spoke about, Israel is not preparing a preliminary atmosphere for talking about peace, its nature, and its terms.

[Humaydi] So you recognize Israel's existence as an entity or a state?

[Al-Buti] What I said does not justify your question. If Israel continues its aggression, it is premature to talk about the permissibility of peace. So how could it not be premature to talk about recognizing that state's existence, when the situation is still the same?

[Humaydi] What are the conditions for establishing peace with enemies in accordance with the Islamic religion?

[Al-Buti] Regardless of the aggressive reality I mentioned, if we want to know Islam's position on peace scientifically and academically, we can learn the following fact: Islam is the religion of justice. All its laws are aimed at applying the principles of justice among members of the human community as a whole. Islam is the religion of peace. And there is always a substantial correlation between justice and peace. Whenever there is justice, there is peace. And whenever there is no justice, and whenever it is replaced by injustice, there is no peace. Islam is the religion of peace because it is the religion of justice. When people ignore the law of justice advocated by Islam and ask about Islam's position on peace, the way the question is asked seems to be illogical.

[Humaydi] And what is the logical way?

[Al-Buti] The logical way to know Islam's position on peace is to heed Islam's position on injustice and its urgent call for justice. When we heed this position of Islam and base the question about Islam's position on peace on it, the answer is bound to be consistent. That is, talking about the peace advocated by Islam becomes the fruit of the promotion of justice among people.

[Humaydi] And what peace is advocated by Islam?

[Al-Buti] A peace based on giving everyone who has rights his rights.

[Humaydi] How can the academic-theoretical concept of Islam's position on peace be applied to the current reality?

[Al-Buti] By urging Israel—when it raises the slogan of peace and asks us to establish it—to embark on the first step, namely to establish the principles of justice. That is, to abandon usurpation and restore people's rights so that we can implement Islam's commands. If Israel responds to what Islam is advocating, namely laying down the foundations of justice first, we would join it in establishing the building of peace on that basis. But when it ignores the foundation of justice stressed by Islam and continues to talk about peace, that is, when it ignores the crux of the matter and continues to talk about side issues only, I believe that that kind of talk is going to produce no positive results.

[Humaydi] What principles of justice and rights are you referring to as regards the situation between Muslims and Israel?

[Al-Buti] I believe that the answer is now clear to everyone. Israel has usurped numerous rights from their owners, as attested by international organizations, world opinion, and all laws, and there is no need to name them. The way to achieve justice is merely for Israel to let go of the rights it has usurped, since these rights do not belong to it, as attested by all international organizations. If it does that, it will have declared its real readiness for peace, and we would join it in establishing the fruit of justice, which would be automatic: that is, peace.

[Humaydi] What rights do you believe Israel should restore?

[Al-Buti] Those who implement divine laws and the resolutions of international legitimacy are the ones who should implement that law [restoring the rights]. As for me as a conveyor of the Islamic law's ruling, I clarify a principle which is understood by everyone: Israel must let go of the rights it has usurped from this nation. This is what Islam says. As for the implementers—politicians and rulers—they can determine these rights, their locations, how they can be listed, and how Israel can be required to return them.

[Humaydi] What are the conditions for establishing peace with Israel?

[Al-Buti] We cannot talk about peace while the situation is still the same, because Israel has not prepared the atmosphere. I am against saying that an Islamic thinker declares the permissibility of peace when certain conditions are met, because we have not experienced the atmosphere that allows us to talk about peace. The situation is still hostile, and the aggression is dominant, not because we want it, but because Israel is imposing it.

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But let us assume that Israel has prepared the atmosphere I spoke about; without doubt we would be ready to implement that peace in accordance with the Islamic law, which calls for justice. Justice as advocated by Islam means that Israel should abandon aggression and usurpation entirely. And that all the Arab and Islamic states concerned should agree among themselves so that a partial peace will not be the cause of a rift among fraternal states. This is what Islam says. What I convey is a ruling, not an opinion. I stress once again that this point can be addressed when the page of aggression has been turned. Regrettably, Israel has not turned the page of aggression, since the usurpation is continuing.

[Humaydi] Is that a fatwa, and what are the conditions for passing a fatwa in Islam?

[Al-Buti] That is a ruling documented in the sources of the Islamic Shari'ah. It does not negate them, nor is it my personal opinion. If you call it a fatwa, it is a fatwa. If you call it a ruling documented in the Shari'ah, it is. They both mean the same. I believe that the conditions for passing fatwas are summed up in the following: Anyone who conveys an Islamic ruling or passes a fatwa on it must have thorough knowledge of this ruling. That is, he must have sufficient scholarly knowledge to pass a correct Islamic ruling. I believe I am one of the people who have this ability.

[Humaydi] Can Islamic scholars differ in their fatwas?

[Al-Buti] When Muslim scholars have the same logic, namely to explain God's ruling objectively and without being influenced by any political background or personal interests, they cannot differ on this question in particular. But if these scholars are influenced by various factors, it is easy for them to differ, but the source of disagreement is not a contradiction in the Shari'ah, but, rather, a factor prompting them to appease a certain group.

[Humaydi] What is Islam's position on violence?

[Al-Buti] Violence has various forms and meanings. If you mean the violence that the oppressed is forced to use to recover his rights from the oppressor, it is legitimate and justifiable. On this God says: "And if you do catch them out, catch them out no worse than they catch you out." [Koranic verse]

If you mean the terrorism practiced against innocent and peaceful people, it is rejected—in all its forms—by the Shari'ah. This includes all the minor forms practiced by various groups and numerous states and quarters, beginning with frictions among Muslims through to the Islamists' disobedience to their Mulsim rulers; hijacking of planes, taking their passengers hostage, and threatening them with death; and trying to destroy entire cities and entire peoples and to deny people their rights.

[Humaydi] Does that mean that some Islamic thinkers sanction violence?

[Al-Buti] Violence against authorities does not proceed from an Islamic view based on what the Shari'ah says. It proceeds from political influences.

[Humaydi] What is Islam's position on armed violence against rulers?

[Al-Buti] The Islamic Shari'ah instructs—through its messenger, Muhammad, peace be upon him—that the ruler should be obeyed with regard to matters that do not constitute disobedience to God as long as he is Muslim. We cannot strip him of his Islamic identity unless he strips himself of this identity. The Prophet, peace be upon him, said: "Unless you see a clear blasphemy on which you have a mandate from God."

[Humaydi] But Islamic movements use violence in Algeria, relying on religious evidence?

[Al-Buti] I said that that is a political position, even though it is covered by Islamic justifications which Islam has nothing to do with. I can analyze the motives prompting the violent groups to justify that. They are psychological revenge motives prompted by political positions and are not based on a religious view or a Shari'ah ruling which they are seeking to defend through their actions. I say that the political losses, not Islamic losses, suffered by some Islamists in some Arab states during their attempts to reach power are the first motive behind the violent actions they carried out. So the question as a whole, beginning with its motives through to its results, is attributable to a political position and is not the outcome of a religious ruling.

[Humaydi] So you do not support their actions.

[Al-Buti] I do not support anything Islam does not support. The prophet told Hudhayfah [a companion] when the latter asked him about his position vis-a-vis the ruler: "Listen and obey him, even if he strikes you and takes your money, unless you see a clear blasphemy on which you have a mandate from God." How can you imagine that I would ignore the prophet's saying and turn my back on it to support something prohibited by God's messenger? In fact tell me: How can the position of those Islamists be in line with Islam as regards the actions they are committing in the name of Islam?

[Humaydi] Do Islamists have the same position on democracy before and after assuming power?

[Al-Buti] If you are asking about the Islamists engaging in politics and seeking to reach power, the question should be addressed to them. As for the Shari'ah's position on freedoms and what is known today as democracy, the answer is summed up in the following: There is no difference between Islam's position on freedoms and democracies before Muslims assume power and their position on them after they assume power. That is, Islam orders its preachers and Muslims to expand Islam's scope and spread Islamic concepts in an atmosphere of freedom and within the atmosphere stipulated in the Koran: "Invite all to the way of the Lord

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with wisdom and beautiful preaching, and argue with them in ways that are best." The society in which Islam flourishes before assuming power is a society of freedoms, and the society in which Islam is applied after assuming power is a society of freedoms.

Look at Islam's golden era, that is the era of the companions and followers, and notice the scale of the freedom that dominated the first ideal society. You will find that freedoms were more prevalent in that society than any of the societies that followed it. To discover the extent of Islam's embracement of these freedoms, it is enough to remember that the emergence of various rival Islamic groups in that particular era—and most of them deviated from the overall Islamic program, known as the program of the people of the Sunnah—was attributable to the extensive freedoms provided by Islam then. Would these groups have emerged, had it not been for the Islamic ruling: Everyone should be allowed to express his opinion? Contradictory and diverse scientific circles dominated al-Basrah mosque and al-Kufah mosque.

So these groups prevailed and grew in an environment of what used to be called freedoms and is now called democracy. Then they disappeared and the method of the peoples of the Sunnah prevailed through freedoms, and matters used to be discussed freely. The Islam that guaranteed freedoms then is the same Islam guaranteeing it in this era when it rules.

I stress once again that this is Islam and its position. As for the position of the Islamic movements using violence, you should ask them about it.

[Humaydi] What do you mean by saying "man's freedom under absolute submission to God?"

[Al-Buti] Man's freedom under his submission to God means that the real freedom for people grows only when people believe fully that they are servants of God. When people realize that they are servants of God and owned by God, and that God is the only one that helps and harms, gives and takes away, they will never submit to anyone but Almighty God. People's acknowledgement of the fact that they are servants of God makes them feel free in their dealings with their rivals.

Papers View Jerusalem Committee Meetings, Statement

JN1901083595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 19 Jan 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-BA'TH says: Israel has shown its disdain for Arab rights and the international laws that guarantee these rights in many ways. Yitzhaq Rabin's statements, in which he said that settlement and Judaization activities will continue, came to shatter all hopes of providing suitable conditions for the peace process.

AL-BA'TH stresses that Rabin knows very well that Jerusalem is a very important place, both materially and spiritually, for the Arabs and Muslims, and that peace will not exist without Jerusalem, even if Israel manages to infiltrate into areas other than those it has already reached. This is because Jerusalem is an issue of the people and concerns every Arab and Muslim.

AL-BA'TH asks an important question about the Israeli disdain for the Arab and Muslim nations and how those who advocate reconciliation with Israel can justify their acts when they hear Rabin speak or when they see the maps of Israeli settlement expansion.

AL-BA'TH says: Those who claim that normalization with Israel will protect those who follow individual steps must read the document revealed by the Israeli Foreign Ministry on preparations for a future war. That document provides the conclusive evidence that those who make peace with Israel will be an easy target for the policy of aggression, which the Israeli strategy has adopted.

TISHRIN says: With the conclusion of the Jerusalem Committee meetings in Casablanca, and its statement underlining the principles of a just and comprehensive solution including the Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borderlines, one must note that these meetings bolstered the hopes for closing Arab and Muslim ranks to help regain usurped rights, protect holy places, and regain Jerusalem, which represents a very special religious symbol for Arabs and Muslims alike.

The paper says: Closing Arab ranks will help arrive at formulas and programs of action to rescue Jerusalem, help implement the resolutions of international legitimacy, stop Israeli settlement activities, and return the occupied territories.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: Syria, which has contributed—positively and with a constructive spirit—in the Jerusalem Committee meetings as a founding member of that committee, has stressed that any position that protects and calls for the return of Arab rights will undoubtedly serve and protect the destiny of the Arab nation and strengthen Arab-Islamic cooperation and ties.

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Afghanistan

Hekmatyar's Militia Reportedly Loot UN Aid Convoy

LD1801183295 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday, Golboddin Hekmatyar's militia stopped and looted seven truckloads of UN foodstuffs and medicine bound for Kabul.

The correspondent from the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY writes: Golboddin Hekmatyar had promised to keep all highways open during the current week for convoys of basic materials. It has been reported that the United Nations, taking advantage of this situation, decided to dispatch to Kabul a convoy of foodstuffs and medicine. Despite promises made by Hekmatyar, this convoy was stopped by his militia and looted.

The promise to open all highways has been broken at a time when the people of Afghanistan (?are building their hopes for finding a peaceful solution to the current issues) [words indistinct]. Hekmatyar did not keep his promise regarding the opening of highways. In the light of this situation, a number of people have raised this question of how can one rely on any promise made by Golboddin? He has broken all his promises in the past. Most of the commentators believe that Golboddin Hekmatyar's insistence on the formation of a transitional government with no sufficient military power, is based on this notion that under this situation he would be able to achieve his objective, which is to grasp a monopoly of power by toppling such a transitional government. [words indistinct]

Hekmatyar Launches Unsuccessful Attack in Ghazni

LD1801173295 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An attack by the Golboddin militia was dislodged today in Ghazni province. A source of the jihadi council of Ghazni Province reported to us that today the Golboddin militia launched an unsuccessful attack, which faced defeat as a result of the counteroffensive by the jihadi council forces of the province and Taleban [religious students sent and supported by Pakistan; a new group that controls four provinces in the south of Afghanistan]. Not only did the Golboddin militia make no gains in the battle but they also lost large areas of Ghazni Province.

India

Article Urges Provisions for Withdrawal From WTO

BK2001102595 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 19 Jan 95 p 6

[Article by Dayakrishna: "The World Trade Organization and India"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The World Trade Organization [WTO] came into existence on 1 January 1995, replacing GATT. With the inclusion, however, of four important and elaborate sectors—patents, investment, services, and agriculture—this organization's scope is much wider than GATT. From the viewpoint of rights and jurisdiction, this organization is much more powerful than GATT.

The Indian Government confirmed its participation in this organization on 30 December 1994. In order to meet the conditions of membership, an ordinance was issued by the president on 31 December amending the 1970 Patent Act to favor the Americans.

Previously, on 9 December, Commerce Minister Pranab Mukherjee made a statement in Parliament that the union minister had opted for inclusion in the WTO in view of "the continuous benefits accruing from world trade."

What are these benefits? Figures published by the World Bank show that in the last 47 years India's contribution to world trade has decreased from 3.5 percent to a mere 0.5 percent. India's shameful decline in world trade came despite India's status as a founding member of GATT.

Due to its continuous losses in world trade, India now has a foreign debt of 2.8 trillion rupees. This debt forced India to sign the GATT agreement.

The open debate that has taken place in India over the last four years has shown that the proposal to include four new sectors under the GATT agreement is part of a conspiracy to make India an economic slave. The government, therefore, did not raise the issue of joining the WTO in Parliament; it opted for an ordinance.

Despite continuous open debate for four years, there is not sufficient information available in the country about the dangers of the GATT agreement. Under the GATT agreement, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund will participate in reviewing the trade policies of WTO member countries. If any country does not adhere to the guidelines of the GATT agreement in any sphere, then symbolic action can be taken against it in other spheres.

The WTO will have the right to take action against countries that enact improper trade barriers. The unfortunate aspect is that this decision will be made by secret groups within the WTO. There will be no place for lawsuits, arguments, or appeal. Ralph Nader, a renowned American consumer advocate and environmentalist, has warned India against joining the WTO. He argues that by becoming a member, India's sovereignty will be infringed because the WTO will have the right to impose permanent restrictions against any country in a secret manner. Nader conveyed his views to Narasimha Rao through a letter during Rao's visit to the United States.

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The letter said: "Like the Clinton administration, your administration has argued that the interests of the people of the world can be best met through this kind of trade agreement, which transfers rights to a group of trade specialists in Geneva, who remain off the record and free from accountability. In reality, your citizens argue that transferring power to the lower levels is the best way to protect the people's interests." The allegations leveled by Nader against Narasimha Rao are serious.

U.S. Congressman Robert Matsui, a strong supporter of the WTO, has declared time and again that the United States will be able to use the WTO according to its needs and will be able to use the GATT agreement to force open the markets of developing countries. According to Nader, one source of concern is that the Clinton administration is making a similar argument. Matsui's statements are regrettable because they were made during Rao's U.S. visit. Nader included copies of Matsui's statements in his letter to Rao.

Even after completing its plans to conquer the economies of developing nations, the Clinton administration is still unsure of success. Thus it has made preparations to withdraw from the WTO.

To gain the support of the majority Republican Party, Clinton agreed with their suggestion that all WTO decisions should be reviewed by retired judges. Once three decisions are made against the United States, the United States will withdraw from the WTO.

The question arises: Why does India not follow the U.S. example? India could say that once the WTO judges issue three decisions against India, it will withdraw from the trade organization.

Does the Indian Government has the courage?

Paper: China's Nuclear Fuel Supply 'Milestone'

BK1601143495 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 9 Jan 95 p 1, 8

["Analysis" by Pranay Kumar Suman]

[FBIS Translated Text] By providing low enriched uranium for India's Tarapur Nuclear Plant, China has has opened a new chapter in relations between the two countries. This deal will prove to be a milestone in the process of continuing improvement of relations with China, the echo of which will be heard not only in South Asia, but in far corners of the world.

The first consignment of low enriched uranium from China reached the Hyderabad Nuclear Fuel Complex on 5 January. By mixing it with mixed oxide fuel, it can be used as a nuclear fuel. This is a great relief for India. In fact, India still does not have the desired facility to enrich natural uranium. That is why India has to depend on other countries for the supply of enriched uranium.

The United States was to supply enriched uranium for the Tarapur Nuclear Plant under the 1963 30-year agreement. However, the Indian nuclear test in Pokharan in 1974 very much displeased United States and it cut the supply. This led to the immense mutual repartee between India and the United States. After many rounds of talks, the Reagan Administration found a way out. Though it did not agree to supply the fuel directly to India, it convinced France to do so and since 1981 France had been fulfilling India's need and had kept the plant running. However, as soon as the 30-year period of the agreement with the United States elapsed, France too stopped the supply. Prime Minister Rao himself went to France to urge for the continued supply of the fuel, but French President Francois Mitterrand categorically stated that after the expiry of the U.S. contract, France could supply enriched uranium only if India allowed the International Atomic Energy Agency to inspect its nuclear facilities, meaning France was requesting that India sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. India could not accede to this demand because it considered the treaty discriminatory and this did not serve the cause of the nuclear nonproliferation. Rao returned from Paris disappointed. Russia too was not going to side with India on this issue.

Meanwhile, a new row had also broke out with the United States, which strongly objected when India wanted to reprocess the spent fuel from the Tarapur Plant. In the original agreement nothing was clearly mentioned about spent fuel. The United States said India could not reprocess the spent fuel and demanded its return. In such a situation, India approached its new friend China which agreed to provide low enriched uranium for the Tarapur plant. China also did not impose any conditions such as asking India to open its nuclear facilities to the International Atomic Energy Agency for inspection. Though the nuclear fuel supplied by France had not run out, now with the Chinese supply the fuel crisis in the Tarapur Plant has ended.

At this point it will be right to view China's understanding of India's nuclear policy. It is an interesting fact that while the West raised a hue and cry about India's Pokhran nuclear test in 1974, China did not do so. China said that if Western countries could make nuclear weapons, India also had the right to as a sovereign country. Despite all the bitterness of Sino-Indian border dispute, this was a constructive attitude. India had also supported the Chinese claim to permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council in place of Taiwan. To expand such a positive atmosphere, Atal Behari Vajpayee, foreign minister in the Janata Party government, went to Beijing, but returned half way due to Sino-Vietnamese war. Both countries by then were on the verge of shaking hands. Rajiv Gandhi has since gone to Beijing to break the ice and since then many destinations have been reached in ties between the two countries.

Last year when Pakistan tabled a Kashmir-related resolution at the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva,

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the manner in which China in association with Tehran mobilized opinion in India's favor made it clear not only to Islamabad but the entire world that something is cooking between Beijing and New Delhi in the post-Cold War era. Last year, both countries agreed to maintain peace at the border which greatly reduced pressure on the Indian forces which can now concentrate on Pakistan.

However, in spite of all these good things, China favors the proposal to denuclearize South Asia. The proposal first came from Pakistan followed by the United States which proposed a five-nation conference to be participated by the United States, Russia and China, besides India and Pakistan. Again, Chinese nuclear missiles deployed in Tibet are targeted on India, and New Delhi has told Washington that its nuclear concerns should be understood in the context of China as well. The conclusion is that the fuel agreeent for the Tarapur Plant is illustrative of a new thinking in both countries on the nuclear issue. However, both countries have to take many more steps to untie this knot completely.

Working Group Agrees To Expand Ties With Vietnam

BK1901060495 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1630 GMT 18 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and Vietnam are to expand bilateral cooperation in the economic, commercial and technical fields. The joint working group of the two countries signed a document on cooperation in several new areas in New Delhi today. The Vietnamese vice minister of finance, Mr. Pham Van Trong, led his country's delegation, while the secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, Mr. Salman Haider, headed the Indian delegation.

During the three-day meeting of the working group which began in New Delhi on Monday, several specific areas for bilateral cooperation were identified. They include mining, telecommunications, pharmaceuticals, aquaculture, and sugar cane cultivation. The group also made a comprehensive review of the entire gamut of economic relations between the two countries. The group was set up as a follow-up of Prime Minister Mr. Narasimha Rao's visit to Vietnam last September.

Article Views Congress Party Internal Strife

BK1701131495 Calcutta ANANDABAZAR PATRIKA in Bengali 5 Jan 95 p 4

[Article by Shibdas Bandopadhyay]

[FBIS Translated Text] After witnessing the conduct of Prime Minister Narasimha Rao in the face of the current political crisis, many people have started questioning how long he will be able to continue in power. Will Rao go for midterm elections with a view to suppressing his agitated opponents both within and outside the party? When will the date of midterm elections be announced? It is true that it will not be possible to change Rao's image as an indecisive and malicious leader even if he reorganizes the union council of ministers or the All India Congress Committee-I [AICC-I]. This will also not help in consolidating his authority over the party or the administration. He had asked the three tainted ministers—B. Shankaranand, Kalp Nath Rai, and Rameshwar Thakur—to resign not because he regards them as corrupt, but because he was compelled to do so under pressure. Presently there is no question regarding the involvement of his secretariat or his personal involvement in the sugar scandal.

The authority of Rao has greatly diminished due to the ultimatum given by Narain Dutt Tiwari [former president of the Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee] and the challenge presented by Arjun Singh. Rao has formed an impression that corrupt people like Kalp Nath Rai and Shankaranand are blackmailing him and damaging the moral legality of his leadership. The resignation of Arjun Singh has brought the shadowy conflict within the party to the limelight. There is great similarity between the allegations raised by Arjun Singh regarding the administration of the party and the government by Rao and the statements made by opposition parties in this regard.

The resentments accumulating within the party for the past several months have been expressed in the letter by Arjun Singh. Taking this into consideration, it can be said that Arjun Singh's resignation letter was not drafted for the prime minister or the general masses. The target of this letter is the party workers of the Congress. Perhaps Singh calculated that the grassroots-level Congress workers would feel encouraged by his statements and would create pressure for installing him in Rao's position. Perhaps he himself wants to start the work of building up public opinion through the proposal he gave to launch a campaign in the states. Some party leaders belonging to Rao's camp, particularly Shukla [union minister of parliamentary affairs] and his group, are now trying to dig out some old corruption charges against Arjun Singh with a view to stifling him. Even if this is likely to harm Arjun Singh, there is very little chance that Rao will benefit from it.

The political future of the prime minister can be certain only after he openly confesses his failure to fulfill the hopes of the people and their desire; a major reshuffle is made in the council of ministers; and a change is brought about in the system of running the government. What is actually happening now? A committee headed by Pranab Mukherjee [minister of commerce] submitted a report within 24 hours citing the measures that should be taken to satisfy the poor people. This report offered several proposals, including distribution of millets in Gujarat and Maharashtra, creation of job opportunities, launching of a program for the development of villages, and providing various facilities for setting up industries in rural areas. Is it possible to cheat the voters in this way? The voters make decisions on the basis of their experience.

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There are many members in the Union Council of Ministers whose record is worse than those ministers who have been dismissed on charges of corruption. If a reshuffle is made in the union cabinet or in the AICC-I without removing these selfish sycophants then perhaps it will not be convincing. Rao has failed to keep himself aloof from persons who have become a burden for the government and the party. Even outside the party, Rao is still intimate with some questionable characters like Chandraswamy [Rao's adviser]. He has also allowed some corrupt bureaucrats to get close to him. Manmohan Singh [finance minister] has managed to keep himself above corruption and scandals, but Rao has failed to do so. Rao has become involved in these issues through his family members and close associates.

Perhaps the greatest enemy of Rao is himself. In Gujarat, by secretly supporting a faction of the Janata Dal, he virtually handed over the state to the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] as a gift. In Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, he did not respond to the demands raised by the Congressmen of these states. Perhaps the intention of Rao is to reach an understanding with Mulayam Singh Yadav [chief minister of Uttar Pradesh] and Lalu Prasad [chief minister of Bihar] on the sharing of seats in the assembly elections to be held in these states in 1996. In Maharashtra, he inclined toward various groups. Sometimes he supported the opponents of Sharad Pawar [chief minister of Maharashtra] while at other times he addressed public meetings from the same platform with Sharad Pawar. In majority of the states, he has given the responsibility of the party to persons that have earned a bad reputation on various matters.

An assessment shows that the year 1994 was reminiscent of the year 1967. In 1967, the Congress Party suffered disaster in several state assembly elections, there was serious doubt whether the prime minister would be able to lead the party to victory in the Lok Sabha elections, and a competition started as to who would become the successor of the prime minister. During that year, the people rejected the traditional ruling party [Congress] in Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar. After this the prime minister, Indira Gandhi, had to run the administration along with her opponents for two years. It was only after 1967 that Indira Gandhi formulated her policies by not bothering with the approval of the World Bank but by taking into consideration the welfare of the general masses of the country. Prior to the disaster in 1967, she made a 57-percent devaluation of the rupee at the directive of the IMF. This led to inflation. She started changing her policies only after suffering setbacks. After winning a favorable verdict, Indira Gandhi again reverted to the old policies, and by the year 1973 she brought liberals and the reformists within her control. At that time, with a view to bringing about a balance in government policies, she brought traditionalists like Pranab Mukherjee into the limelight. The incidents that followed are known to all. Later, Indira became an autocrat.

After receiving Arjun Singh's resignation letter, Narasimha Rao became upset and cancelled a meeting of the parliamentary party of the Congress. He also warned party MP's that if necessary he would direct the intelligence department to follow their movements. He also recalled the events that took place between 1967 and 1969 and said that the Congress has the power to overcome this crisis. Will the events of 1967-69 be repeated?

Arjun Singh has given a jolt to the selfish and corrupt leaders of the party. From the very beginning, Arjun Singh was critical of the policies of Rao and his system of running the party. He is a bit inclined toward the left and secular in his outlook. He also projects himself as an ideal Congressman. Perhaps Arjun has high ambitions. This is nothing unnatural for politicians belonging to the Congress party; on the contrary, it is quite natural. Arjun has some added advantages. Firstly, he was the first person to question the disaster suffered by the party in Andhra Pradesh, which is the constituency of Rao, and also in Karnataka. Secondly, many Congressmen believe that the party suffered reverses in the recent assembly elections for not heeding the warnings given by Arjun Singh. Singh had always criticized the economic policies of the Rao government and described it as pro-rich and rightist. On the other hand, Rao has described the elections held in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka as a referendum on his economic reforms. He lost these elections. Congressmen have interpreted this election debacle by saying that Rao's policy of denationalization and market economy are not popular. In the election held in Uttar Pradesh in the year 1993, Congress suffered defeat centering on the issue of secularism. The party also failed to tackle the question of progress for the backward classes. From the very beginning, Arjun Singh has been saying that the Congress committed a blunder by pleasing the Hindu fundamentalists and neglecting the backward classes. Arjun is also critical of Rao for his failure to democratize the party organizations, but he does not want to split the party. The current efforts being made to silence Arjun Singh clearly show that Rao is violating his pledge to establish internal democracy. This indicates that Rao is not a leader who is above internal party strife. In fact, he is actually a group leader. Above all, Arjun Singh also wants to tell everyone that he enjoys the patronage of Sonia Gandhi. Congressmen may give some importance to the Sonia symbol, but the general masses do not attach any special significance to it.

These advantages of Arjun Singh will become immaterial if the performance of the party is good in the forthcoming assembly elections. Arjun has taken it for granted that this will not happen, as the party leaders who were given the responsibility for conducting the elections in the recently held state assembly polls where the party was defeated have been again assigned the same task. As these people cannot themselves win any elections, it is also impossible for them to understand the minds of the voters. The forthcoming state assembly

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elections will be a dangerous test for Rao. It will also be decided whether the Congress will remain united or whether it will split.

Media Commentaries on Feb-Mar State Elections

Congress(I) Election Losses Forecast

95AS0162C New Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 27 Dec 94 p 4

[Article by Jawaharlal Kaul: "The South's Indication for the West and East"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Momentum is gaining for the new elections even before the commentary on the recent Vidhan Sabha elections has waned. The February [March] elections in four states are no less important for the ruling Congress than the four November elections were. As a matter of fact the sum total of these two elections will decide the fate of the [1996] Lok Sabha elections, and will chart the future course of political action. Do the past elections indicate a clear direction for the new elections? There are vast regional and priority differences, and it can be argued that because of these differences, the results of one situation cannot be applied to the other. But it is also not true that the state elections remain unaffected by national policies and environment or that in Karanataka and Andhra the issue was simply Moili and Vijay Bhaskar's governments, respectively, and not Narasimha Rao or the federal government. Therefore, these (past election results) can provide meaningful hints in regard to local specifics and national trends.

The election results from Andhra and Karanataka provide two different scenarios. The Andhra voters had two clear alternatives; Congress and Telgu Desham [TDP]. The voter dismayed with the Congress was not faced with indecisiveness. Clearly he had an alternative. But the voters dismayed with the Congress in Karanataka had no such clear alternative. It was not certain who the voter would select from [amongst] Janata Dal, the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP], and Bangarappa's Congress party [KCP]. The voter had several alternatives. No doubt the Congress lost in Karnataka but the winning party was not much ahead of them. The percentage difference of votes between the victorious Janata Dal and the losing Congress was very little. The reason for Congress's defeat was that a large percentage of voters had favored the BJP and certain other parties.

It would be timely to examine if similar conditions exist in the states facing elections [in March]. In context of the regional conditions the elections can be divided into two segments, east and west. In the West the elections are scheduled in Gujarat and Maharashtra, and in the East, Bihar and Orissa. In Gujarat, all political parties, per se, will be active but for the past few years the Gujarat politics appears to have consolidated in two parties. The Congress and the BJP are almost completely dominant. This process is explicit as a few years ago Chimanbhai Patel's regional [Janata Dal] party was entirely integrated with the Congress. Although in spite of the integration of Chimanbhai's Gujarat Congress and the original Congress there is a distinct rift between the two. But it is anticipated that the real election contest will take place only between the Congress and the BJP. It can, therefore, be assumed that the current Gujarat situation is similar to Andhra's situation at the time of November elections. The voters dismay with the Congress and the local administration can conclude in a fashion similar to Andhra's election results.

The condition in Maharashtra is very quickly following the pattern of Andhra. Until recently it was accepted that the Maharashtra voters had only two alternatives, Congress and the BJP-Shivsena alliance. But after their success in Karanataka, the Janata Dal leaders have come to believe that they may have an important role in Maharashtra. As a party the Janata Dal does not have a prominent standing in Maharashtra. But the efforts are underway to unite support from the group dissatisfied with both the Congress and the BJP. This effort includes formation of a united front with several local factions of the Republican Party, and certain labor organizations. It is hoped that the united front will provide those Muslims and other backward classes who are discontented with the Congress and the BJP an opportunity to unite. According to the united front leaders calculations, the election contest in Maharashtra will be a three sided game. Even if this is an exaggeration, it is likely that the new alliance will serve in a manner similar to that which Bangarappa's party served in Karanataka. It should not be ignored that Bangarappa's party caused the Congress to lose about three dozen seats. It appears that the creation of the third front will hurt the Congress. It is also not necessary that the election results will follow the Karnataka trend because the Congress has a better grip on the villages of Maharashtra and chief minister Sharad Pawar has better control over the government.

The most interesting race will be fought in Bihar. The popular opinion, outside Bihar, is that the Janata Dal under Laloo Prasad Yadav's leadership continues to maintain a strong hold over the voters. This theory overlooks two considerations. First, Bihar is not a uniform state. The political, social and economic formation of southern Bihar is significantly different then that of central and northern Bihar. Their political priorities are also different. It is eternal truth that in this area, tribal population politics is played between tribals and non-tribals. In the tribal region no single group is leading the movement for Jharkhand. Half a dozen Jharkhand parties stand in opposition to each other. The BJP controls a certain number of both urban and tribal voters. The equations which are possible in the northern and middle Bihar are not likely in southern Bihar. In the northern and middle Bihar alliances are changing. Even if the current economic bankruptcy and the law and order situation is disregarded there is one fact that will work against the present Janata government. The Laloo Prasad administration has completed the full five year

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term. In spite of the full use of the so called social justice and reservations the benefit of power has gone only to a single group of the backward classes. As a natural outcome, the leftout backward classes are engaged in pushing aside the ones in power to reach the center. This is the basis of the newly organized Samata Party. The factions opposing Laloo Prasad and specially the high castes have smelled the intention of the Kurmi caste to gain power. It would not be right to say that the Janata Dal hold over the backward classes of Uttar Pradesh is same as it was a few years ago.

It would not be practical to claim that under the leadership of the Samata Party the Kurmis, non-Yadav backward classes, and Swarans will form a strong enough front to unseat the Janata Dal. It would be more appropriate to say that neither the Janata Dal nor the any joint alliance will be able to secure a majority. This is because the sole objective of the Kurmis is not to place the Kurmis in power but to unseat Laloo. It is also possible that the Congress and the BJP may be the beneficiaries of this uncertainty in northern and middle Bihar. Thus, the election scene in Bihar neither matches the scenario of Karnataka nor Andhra. In fact Bihar is passing through a crisis. No party can claim to have state-wide influence and the voters do not have a clear alternative to the present government. It will not be surprising, therefore, if Bihar experiences an era of minority or coalition governments.

Some people equate the Orissa election scenario with the Andhra situation. In this state also except for the influence of the Janata Dal in power, and the Congress, the influence of any third party is minimal. In this context just like in Andhra, the voters have a clear alternative. If the voters are unsatisfied with the present Biju Patnaik government they have an option to return the Congress to power. This is, however, an over simplification of the situation because in Orissa the Congress is not active to the extent that it can gain the support of the voters unsatisfied with the government. The national recognition of a party is always in the thoughts of the voters in addition to the local issues. The Congress upheaval at the center, its defeat in Karanataka and Andhra will to some extent sway the voters. The middle class urban voters are more prone to being influenced with events at the national level then their rural counterparts. It is hard to say that the Orissa voter's discontent with the Biju Patnaik [Janata Dal] government is so deep that they will unwillingly handover the power to the Congress simply because they do not want to reseat the Biju Patnaik government.

The en-block Muslim vote against the Congress was one notable specific of the November elections. It is natural for this communal reaction to effect the Gujarat and Maharashtra elections. In both these states the BJP has a strong political hold. Many Muslim voters after the Babri mosque incident oppose the Congress. The Congress leadership had thought this reaction would die over time. The Karnataka and Andhra returns have proved that the Congress will not get its wish in the February elections. In Gujarat the Muslim voters have no other medium to express themselves. Because there the BJP forms the major opposition. If they do not want to vote for the BJP then the only alternate to defeat it is to vote for the Congress. To certain extent Maharashtra could have faced a similar condition after the communal riots and bomb blast incidents because the challenge to Congress is formed by an alliance of the BJP and Shivsena. The Muslims may not have a serious grudge against the BJP for these riots but they hold the Shivsena directly responsible for the riots. If under the leadership of Janata Dal a third front becomes active, the Muslim faction can lean toward it. Another big problem before the Congress is the issue of separatism in the backward classes. For the past few years the progressive backward classes have started a movement to take direct part in the political partnership. The unity between the Lingayat and Vokkalinga tribes in Karanataka was one such effort to gain power. The Congress after Chimanbhai Patel's demise has loosened its grip on the middle castes in Gujarat. In Bihar the Samata Party and not the Congress is reaping the benefits of the rift in the middle castes. In such circumstances the next elections could be detrimental to the Congress. If significant timely changes do not occur in the communal and political equation the Congress may see a repetition of the November elections. [passage omitted]

Janata Dal's Attempt To Reunite

95AS0162A New Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 11 Dec 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] New Delhi, Dec 10 In view of the election results in Andhra and Karnataka, the Chief Minister of Orissa Biju Patnaik sees the prospect of a United National Front forming a leftist front government after the upcoming [1996] Lok Sabha elections. The leader of the Janata parliamentary group, Mr. Sharad Yadav, and the General Secretary of the Janata Dal [JD], Dr. Ramvilas Paswan have said that "Ramo Vamo" [Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Ramarao's Telegu Desham and leftists] is emerging as a potent alternative in the nation and only one of the two [major] parties, Congress or the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP], will be able to face it as a challenger in the Lok Sabha.

Certain leaders, pleased at the declining popular support of the Congress, have initiated efforts to reunite the JD family. The chief general secretary of the Samata Party, Harikishore Singh said that yesterday he discussed several issues with Indra Kumar Gujral and Sompal. He ignored the question " Under the new circumstances, will the Samata Party merge with the JD" posed by the correspondents. He said that the Samata Party truely reflects the JD image. Mr. Singh said that yesterday's meeting was also attended by Nitish Kumar and George Fernandez and that on Dec 6, he had a dinner meeting with the JD president S.R.Bombai. But will the Samata Party face the Bihar elections in alliance with The JD? In

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response to this question he said that his party will fight the elections in colloboration with secular and democratic groups. It is note worthy that the main confrontation between the Samata Party and the JD is in Bihar.

The JD leaders have characterized the Congress defeat in Karanataka and Andhra as the personal defeat of the prime minister. Orissa leaders have demanded the prime minister's resignation and elections for the Lok Sabha. The party chief Ashok Das has said in a statement that the voters rejected the Congress in four states in spite of its bogus and false promises. The people have spoken against the anti-national, anti-people, and anti-poverty policies of the Congress. The prime minister has no right to continue in his position. In the north people had repudiated him previously. The people of the south have also demonstrated a similar bent. Mr. Das said that the Congress faces similar results in the upcoming elections in five [now six] states.

Encouraged at the election returns Davida Munnetra Kazhagam [DMK] chief Karunanidha has congratulated Vishwanath Pratap Singh, Nandmuri Tarak Ramarao, Ramkrishan Hegde, H.D. Devgoda, and S.R. Bombai. The encouraged Biju Patnaik has declared that his future role is in uniting the "Ramo Vamo" in forming a formidable challenge to the Congress and the BJP. He said that Congress does not have the strength to reform itself, and that the people have voted against the central ruling party. He claims that in Orissa of the 147 seats the JD will win 130 seats. The Congress has no foundation in the state. He has not asked for the prime minister's resignation but has asked him to take a look at the state of his party. He is a seasoned leader, and in this context he should decide for himself.

Sharad Yadav has said that the people have voted against the anti-people policies and programs of the Congress. He said that the BJP's effort to incite the communal feelings on the Hubli issue also were fruitless. The people unraveled their [BJP] secrets and the previous big vote getter fell to its rightful place in this election. [passage omitted]

Janata Dal Moves To Garner Muslim Vote

95AS0162A New Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 31 Dec 94 p 10

[Article by Safdar Rizwi: "Janata Dal Contortions to Get Muslim Votes"]

[FBIS Translated Text] New Delhi, Dec 30. The Janata Dal has moved to save its seed investment of its now sinking "Muslim Vote Bank". The Dec 28 convention of the minority is the first step in this direction. This convention established the financial responsibility on the Indian Muslims settled abroad. It cannot be denied that the alienation of the Muslim vote bank based on the Samajwadi Party [SP] and Bahujan Samaj Party [BSP] alliance in north India is a potent signal for the Janata Dal [JD]. The Muslims are already disenchanted with the Congress. The circumstances indicate that the JD has awakened a little.

The JD leaders convened this convention to extend their hand of friendship to Muslims after much thought. The convention ignored local leaders and especially the merchants of Muslim votes. Until the last elections they used to go to their doorsteps to seek their blessings. Instead the economically and intellectually established Muslims settled abroad were sought, and even the Imam and Deputy Imam of the Jama Masjid were not invited to share the podium. The leader of the Indian National League and the member of Parliament Ibraham Suleman Seth was hugged.

Mr. Seth's presence indicates that the JD will face the elections with the support of his party. In this regard they are in touch with the former prime minister, V.P. Singh. The JD leaders feel that alliance with Seth is opportune to take advantage of Muslim votes. After Seth's alliance with the JD the membership of Milli Council will also step in to support the JD.

The JD leaders have obtained the support of American Muslims. They had come here to assist in the uplift the education of backward Muslims. In support of this objective, the chief of the American Federation, A.R. Nakedar, in a conference held on the education said that he is concerned about the education of the Muslims. There is an immediate need to open educational institutions for the Muslims. He will fully support. But the political observers say that the American Muslims sacrificed their dollars on this convention. Nakedar in order to be recognized, served as the guest of honor and spent the dollars contributed by his fellow Muslims on this convention.

This convention also spells out that the JD has realized that it is not possible to convene conventions at the time of the election and to run an operation with the assistance of foreigners. All of their activities will be watched by the Election Commission. Therefore, the "Form Vote Banks" operation has started before the elections are monitored. In the convention, leaders like V.P. Singh and Ramvilas Paswan stressed the need to prominently pay attention to the needs of Muslims. Maulana Raish Garchvi was specially invited to present these concerns. He very forcefully presented Muslim interests.

In context of the Babri Masjid he said that this incidence has not broken the hearts of the Muslims nor are they disturbed, disturbed and heart broken are those who have done it. Not only Muslims but everyone is saying today that the Muslims have suffered injustice. That is why the culprits are in hiding. Maulana Raish has also said that the Muslims are being asked to provide proof of citizenship. They, as foreigners, are being asked to leave. This, because only a few Muslims had come from abroad. Those who object should consider that the [mythical] Aryans also came from abroad. When both of

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them have come from abroad then the first to come should go first and the one who came later should leave next.

V.P. Singh also gave prominence to the Muslims. He said that the Muslims should vote for secular upholders. Many candidates simply wear the badge of secularity. He named the minority and the oppressed as the true seculars. According to him, to say that the Muslims are not in the main stream is wrong. They are in tune with all others. Paswan also said about Muslims that - there are no children of Babar here. There are no foreigners here. He said that because of the Babri Masjid the JD even let its government fall. They did not enter into an agreement.

In any case, it can be said that the JD leaders are garnishing the Indian Muslims settled abroad to win over the local Muslims through them. In doing this they do not even care to attract the displeasure of Jama Masjid's Bukhari and his supporter member of Parliament Mohamd Afzal. According to knowledgeable sources Mr. Afzel was angry at Mr. Bukhari not being accorded proper recognition.

Alliances Seen Shifting

95AS0161C New Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 30 Dec 94 p 10

[Article by Om Prakash: "Opposition Forces Are Flustered by Suspicion of a BJP-Chandra Shekhar Alliance"] [FBIS Translated Text] Will there be a bullfight between the forces for social justice even after the elections? After the national political picture becomes clearer and after losing the taste for their fight with Laloo Prasad Yadav, there is a possibility (that it may take place). A large group among the opposition leaders believes that former prime minister Mr. Chandra Shekhar is trying to build a national alternative to the Congress Party by joining forces with the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP]. In this work even the BJP seems to have given its consent. In this atmosphere many forces of opposition to Laloo can turn around. One result of this new combine is already in front of us in Orissa. Leftist parties that were aligned with Samata Party against the Janata Dal, have turned around and now they are supporting the Janata Dal.

Communist Party of India-Marxist-Leninist [CPI(ML)] which has an electoral understanding with the Samata Party in Bihar, has its chief secretary, Mr. Vinod Mishra, keep an eye on day to day politics. He believes that the national picture will be clear after the legislative elections in February [rescheduled for March]. After that the politics will turn around in different circles. On his side, he will be interested in strengthening the National Leftist front. He can see many scenarios. The resignation of Mr. Arjun Singh was not only for headlines in the newspapers. The power struggle within the Congress party will intensify after the elections in February. Arjun Singh might be pressured. Or he can change who is in power. There can be a split within the Congress or Sonia Gandhi can act as the savior for the Congress in national politics. Former prime minister Mr. Chandra Shekhar is busy trying to build a national alternative to Congress with the BJP. He is giving many lectures for using Swadeshi (indigenous) products right from the BJP platform. The BJP also has left the Ram temple issue aside and started on the (swadeshi) indigenization movement. Chandra Shekhar's efforts can get some speed of their own. Some other leaders of opposition can throw their support toward Mr. Chandra Shekhar also. These leaders believe that the Congress can be removed from the Center only when they get support from the BJP.

A third possibility is that the National Leftist Front can get a lift. And it is getting it, but how much is yet to be decided. How hard Mr. N.T. Ramarao, the Andhra chief minister will work is yet to be seen. It is also possible that Narasimha Rao being at the centre, can still get some strength from his 'Native son' campaign. NTR still could find it difficult to stand up against Rao. The Janata Dal is alive. However, its triumph in Karnataka was the triumph of local unity. How much this Ramarao-left coalition will succeed, depends a lot on its alignment with regional forces. On his side Mr. Mishra wants to see this coalition succeed. His efforts are directed toward strengthening of this front. He has made this clear even before they were forming the Anti-Laloo front in Bihar. He says there is no difference between Mr. Laloo Prasad Yadav's Janata Dal and Bihar's Samata party. The difference is that by being in power, Laloo's corruption has become public. His logic goes like this. They have already destroyed the administration. Presently there is an anti-Laloo air in the state. On his side he believes that they (The left) will easily be able to win at least 25 to 30 seats without any understanding with any other party. An understanding with the Samata Party will only add to their strength in Bihar. In this moment of crisis and indecision, he has thought it necessary to increase his strength further. He says in the election, Laloo will not be able to muster his old strength. There are many reasons for this. In the last election the backward castes were not divided. This time Kurmis and Koiries are clearly against him. Other backward castes may also go against him. Last time due to Mr. V.P. Singh, the Rajputs were with him. Also the Muslims were aligned with Laloo with all their forces. He had sharpened this connection by stopping Mr. Advani's chariot. Muslims are still with Laloo but the sharpness of support is gone. Today they are asking "what has the Laloo government done for us lately?" It has become a matter of gain or loss for the government. Therefore it is possible that the Muslim vote can be separated from Laloo at the last minute. The revolutionary movements of Bihar have left Laloo completely behind. Nowadays, nobody in the Laloo camp even talks about the J.P. Movement. (A movement started by Mr. Jaya Prakash Narayan) While all these forces are with the Samata party, even their leaders remember and talk about the days of the J.P.Movement. However, how will they adjust to the understanding between them (Leftist parties and Samata Party) in

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central Bihar? Mr. Mishra says that the real test and the advantage of the understanding is in central Bihar only. He says the CPI(ML) is not against any caste. Its fight is against the land holders. The struggle is not only against the Kurmi land holders but depending upon the situation, it has carried the fight against the Yadav land holders too. Therefore, their opposition is not dependent upon [a particular] caste being opposed. Except for some Kurmi lease holders, most of the Kurmi population is land less laborers. The meaning of all this is that in central Bihar, Kurmi land holders and CPI(ML) have been on good terms for quite a while. Mr. Mishra says that the BJP has no support in Bihar. The alternative to Laloo can only be a group along with Samata Party. Mr. Nitish Kumar is not the only leader of the Samata party. Mr. Ram Sundar Das, Mr. Satish Kumar and his (Mr. Nitish Kumar's) are three divisions within the party. Members from each of these groups come to him and tell him that they want to reach an understanding with the CPI(ML). However there are some who oppose it. In spite of this complexity within the Samata party, even Laloo is not the same Laloo of the old days. He is no longer arrogant and insulting. This is good for the Samata Party. It is their belief that even the upper castes can be a block vote in an election. Wherever their own seats are involved they will go for the Congress or to Mr. Anand Mohan Singh. However where their own seat is not involved, they will be forced to vote for the anti-Laloo Samata Party. However, what about leftist unity? They say the CPI state unit is divided. Half of them want to support the Samata Party. But they cannot do anything due to the pressure from the central leadership. Even then one CPI legislator Mr. Brahmanand Mandal is openly with the Samata Party. He has not been able to join the Samata Party only because of the "Prevention of change of party among legislators" law. Leftist unity did not take place mainly because the CPI(ML) had already decided to support the Janata Dal [JD]. All they wanted was that the CPI(ML) should not oppose their candidates. And if they already have a candidate, they should withdraw in support of JD. This understanding was not possible at all. They should have first seen to their own party unity before trying for the total left unity. Afterwards one can decide, who will support whom. [passage omitted]

Maharashtra: Calm Before the Storm

95AS0161B New Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 27 Dec 94 p 10

[Article by Om Prakash: "The Calm Before the Explosion in the Maharashtra Congress "
[FBIS Translated Text] There is calm before the explosion in the Maharashtra Congress. The prime minister has advised his people to get along with Mr. Sharad Pawar. Therefore, the move to remove Mr. Pawar and install Mr. Sudhakar Rao Naik as the chief minister has stopped but the last date for the distribution of (Election) tickets is still quite far off. Mr. Pawar's statement, after the resignation of Mr. Arjun Singh, was not very helpful to the prime minister. He has said that this whole matter should have been postponed till after the elections in February.

In a meeting Saturday night, the prime minister suggested to his people to stop and let Mr. Pawar distribute the tickets as he likes. For Mr. Pawar he only suggested that he should try to get the home minister Mr. Shankar Rao Chavan in confidence and that no one should feel neglected. After the results of Andhra and Karnataka, overnight a movement to remove Mr. Pawar was started so that he could not put pressure on the prime minister over the distribution of tickets. The home minister also warned Mr. Pawar that Congress can win in Maharashtra only if the distribution of tickets is equitable. Mr. Pawar wanted to remove himself but he also wanted to keep his place in the Center and in the state. His plan was to stay with the prime minister and try for the post of prime minister himself. In the changing climate of New Delhi, the prime minister has declared truce for the time being. To the extent that one of the secretaries of the Congress Party declared that the distribution of tickets in Maharashtra is not a concern of New Delhi. However, the equation is not as peaceful as it sounds. A leader of an anti-Pawar movement says "We are also worried about self preservation." That is why for a few days we shall watch the prime minister. However, the ticket distribution cannot be completed in Maharashtra."

In Maharashtra, there is no shortage of people who would like to be the prime minister. If Mr. Shankar Rao Chavan can be called the prime minister's own man then Mr. Sudhakar Rao Naik, Pratap Rao Bhosle, Mr. A.R. Antule, Mr. Vilas Rao Deshmukh etc. cannot be seen too far from 10 Janapath [Gandhi family address]. Mr. Arjun Singh timed his attack on the prime minister very well. The prime minister's group was giving air to the rumors that Mrs. Sonia (Gandhi) is in favor of the prime minister. According to the political circles here, 10 Janapath had given an indication that she (Sonia Gandhi) is under obligation to the prime minister due to [Rao's lack of pursuing the] Bofors affair. 10 Janapath denied receiving any help from the prime minister and also denied favoring the prime minister. Political circles take this as a sign that she (Sonia Gandhi) is not ready to be obligated by the Bofors chapter. People can take what meaning they want to take. Arjun Singh understood its meaning and raised the issue for which 10 Janapath is waiting for an answer from the prime minister. The matter about the assasination of Rajiv Gandhi. Till now, those close to 10 Janapath have not said anything in support of the prime minister. According to the political circles here, they are waiting for an answer to the question as to under what conditions the government is not able to help the investigation of the assasination of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi. The situation in Maharashtra will be resolved after the fights in New Delhi. Mr. Sharad Pawar did not provide any indication about the good prospects for the Congress in Maharashtra before the resignation of Mr. Arjun Singh. He told a meeting of legislators that the Congress is very much in control in Bombay and

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Thana. There are 47 seats of the legislature here. One who can win 90 percent of the seats in Western Maharashtra, will be in a position to form the government. There are total of 75 seats in Western Maharashtra. This evaluation was prior to Mr. Arjun Singh's resignation. The resignation can unite Mr. Pawar with other prime minister wannabees and increase the number of seats for the Congress. However, what role 10 Janapath will play, is confusing every one. Mr. Pawar is already being accused of providing money to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N.T. Ramarao [NTR] and he is convinced that he does not want to see the prime minister continue in the present condition after the February elections. This indication is not only his. [Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister] Digvijay Singh and Virbhadra Singh also have not said a word against Mr. Arjun Singh's resignation. The president of Tamil Nadu Congress, Mr. Ramamurti is already behind Mr. Arjun Singh. Most of the members of Parliament have signed petitions for the investigation into the Rajiv Gandhi assasination. Mr. Pawar has other difficulties: * People in Bombay and Maharashtra believe that the clash of wills in Bombay is due to the internal power struggle within the national Congress party. * Bomb explosions is [believed to be] also the result of the internal struggle within the Congress. * In a meeting of Urdu newspapers, it was clear that Mr. Pawar believes that the Muslim vote will not go for Congress. This deduction can also be derived from Andhra elections. The minority votes, even by mistake, did not go to Congress. They can give the same medicine to Mr. Pawar. There is also a tremendous enthusiasm for the third force in the state. Mr. Pawar and Mr. Murli Deora are the two opposite camps for a long time in the Bombay city. He (Murli Deora) had excited Muslims against Mr. Pawar. Now their fight is not just a personal fight. Now it is the fight for existence. * The Govari death episode has gone on like a story with a life of its own. The chief minister is known for his insensitivity but even the administration remained so loose that it took him two and a half hours to find out about the event. * Khairnar is in form again. [expelled minister who cotains incriminatory evidence against Pawar] * Not a few people are wondering how can it be that Mr. Hitendra Thakur, the brother of the gangster Bhai Thakur can be freed from jail because the Government of Maharashtra did not know in what time frame the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Prevention act [TADA] should be filed in the court. * Mr. George Fernandes and others have accused Mr. Pawar in the stock market scam. Not only has this matter come to life but people are watching who is blackmailing whom. On the day Mr. Harshad Mehta was accusing everyone in power, the same day Mr. Pawar was arriving in New Delhi. * Mr. Sudhakar Rao Naik, Mr. N.A. Tirpude, Mr. A.R. Antule, Mr. Sudhir Sawant, Mr. Shankar Rao Chavan etc. have said that Mr. Pawar keeps the company of mafia leaders. This matter is known and believed by most common people. * In the election, the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] along with Shivsena is going to raise the question of corruption in a big way. Mr. Pawar's picture is not very clean when it comes to the point of corruption. * Mr. Ramdas Athavale and Mr. Chhagan Bhujbal, whose ability to pull the backward caste votes Mr. Pawar was proud of, do not have the same power anymore. * The internal struggle within Shivsena has already subsided and Raj and Uddhava Thakre, in the mean time, have been declared heirs to their father's estate. * One can estimate the effort the BJP is putting into this election by the fact that the BJP leader, Mr. Gopinath has completed visits to all 192 election districts already. * Maharashtra elections do not depend upon recent political developments. Their value and meaning has changed. The shadow of both Mr. Pawar and the prime minister will fall on this election. The Marathis may feel more committed to 'Our man' (Mr. Pawar) or just like the failure of 'Native son' (The Prime minister's) slogan in Andhra, it could also fail. * Mr Pawar is famous for his 'Money power'. Also for the fact that he has his people in all other parties. Shivsena also belongs to him. However the results of Andhra and Karnataka elections have placed a shadow on his ability to get things done. * Leaving alone any movement in the political activity at the Center, Mr. Pawar is finding it difficult to keep alive his own politics against the opposition. The BJP and the Shiv sena have already arrived at an agreement about the distribution of seats. 171 seats will go to Shivsena and 117 seats will go to the BJP account. The BJP got approximately 12 seats more than in the last elections. The preparations for the elections and the agreement have been in place for a long time. The Congress is not safe and the lack of preparations can increase their feeling of axiety. This situation will not hurt the prime minister very much. The indication is that the scale will keep moving up and down between now and the day of election when the votes are cast.

Samata Party: A New Political Force

95AS0161A Varanasi AJ in Hindi 28 Dec 94 p 4

[Article by Virendra Kumar: "Bihar: The Possibilities For the Samata Party"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The group of fourteen legislators who separated themselves from the Janata Dal, and who were known as the Janata Dal (George Fernandes) are now recognized as the Samata Party. What is their political future? What was started with the change of name as Janata Dal (George) on 19th Octoberhas resulted in the Samata Party getting ready for elections. However, no great commotion is taking place at the legislative level. The pulse of all parties quicken as the time for elections comes nearer. All parties are claiming the ability to form the government despite internal quarrels. However, with a newly formed party like the Samata Party, is this claim enough to defeat the chief minister Laloo Prasad Yadav?

To date the Samata party has 11 legislators of which three are Muslim, two each are Rajput and Kurmi and one each; Christian, Harijan, Koiri and Brahmin. Of the above only three faces are recognizable, Mr. Said Shahabuddin, the chairman of the Babri Masjid Action

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committee, Mr. Harkishor Singh, former spokesman of the Janata Party and the socialist leader Mr. George Fernandes. Among the backward castes of Bihar, Kurmis form a new and powerful force. The Samata party has placed all its hopes in the hands of Mr. Nitish Kumar, a Kurmi leader.

Mr. Said Shahabuddin, the Muslim leader has been branded with the politics of Babri Masjid and although he has been at the center of controversy, the Muslim society, due to the increased political and social awareness, has already rejected his leadership. Former chief minister Abdul Gaffur ran as a candidate of the Congress Party in the last election, but only a few days before the election he threw his support to the candidate of the Janata Dal, thinking that he was going to lose anyway. The party paid him back by sending him to the Lok Sabha in 1991. The controversial governor, Mr. Yunus Salim also got a ticket from the Janata Dal to the Lok Sabha in 1991 and was elected a member of Parliament. These Muslim gentlemen have no popular standing now.

Nitish Kumar is the only leader between the Kurmis and Koiries and he has the support of both these castes. It was he who had engineered the split in the Janata Dal after taking stock of the political strength of both these castes. He is the one person on whose shoulders rests the responsibility for the future of the Samata party. Among other leaders, only George Fernandes is well known, but he does not seem to have the political hold over the voters. The rest of the leadership is not worth the consideration.

In this situation, naturally, the question arises, can Mr. Nitish Kumar succeed with support only from Kurmis and Koiries or is there any other possibility? Will Mr. Nitish Kumar be able to harness the anti-Laloo Prasad Yadav feelings? Evidently, neither is the Congress likely to return to power nor can the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] claim a power base in the state. In this situation, the upper castes are searching for a leader to defeat Mr. Laloo Prasad Yadav. Mr. Nitish Kumar wants to base his support on this need of the upper castes.

Two backward castes, Kurmis and Koiries, are fully behind Mr. Nitish Kumar in Bihar, where as some other backward castes can also go with them. This is the main concern for Mr. Laloo Prasad Yadav. If the leaderless upper castes also realize that Mr. Nitish Kumar can give competition to Mr. Yadav, then these upper castes will also go together with Mr. Nitish Kumar.

This is an equation that generates the possibility of defeating Mr. Laloo Prasad Yadav. Mr. Nitish Kumar's political life depends upon it and with it lies all the repressed hopes of upper castes [to get rid of Yadav].

Scientific Expedition Reaches Antarctica

BK1801023495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The 14th Indian scientific expedition has reached Antarctica. The 63-member team landed on the icy continent last Friday [13 January]. Headed by Dr. S.D. Sharma, scientist of the National Physical Laboratory, the expedition was flagged off by the minister of state for ocean development, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, a month ago. It will establish a laser heterodyne and the millimeter wave radio spectrometer for year-round observation of the ozone phenomenon. Besides continuing the ongoing programs, it will also conduct studies in new areas and try to devise a monitoring system for population of seals in the area.

Iran

Bahrain-U.S.-British Exercises Questioned

NC1901211595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On Sunday [15 January] the Bahraini air and naval forces have carried out joint military exercises with U.S. and British military units. It was announced then that the aim of these exercises was to raise the Bahraini forces' combat capabilities and to coordinate with the international coalition forces. The Bahraini forces number 3,000 soldiers equipped with advanced Western weapons.

Although these exercises are within the framework of the Western military coordination with Bahrain, political observers question the reasons which prompted the Bahraini government to adopt such measures, especially as there are no foreign threats to Bahrain.

Political analysts and observers agree that Bahrain needs such displays of military power, especially because its dispute with Qatar has worsened. Qatar has submitted complaints to the International Court of Justice in The Hague on the disputed Hawar Islands. The Western states participating in the military exercises are not prepared to help one party against another directly but aim to export their weapons to the region, where the purchases of the Arab countries in the Persian Gulf region have increased many times over since the oil war [1991 Gulf War]. This has had negative effects on the general budgets of these states and led to severe political crises, creating unstable conditions in these countries and pushing them to unprecedented borrowing.

Commentary Attacks Exercise

LD1901130095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1055 GMT 19 Jan 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Faced with continuing political unrest, and at a time when the people of the country are staging anti-government protest demonstrations, the Bahraini Government is holding joint military maneuvers with the United States and Britain inside Bahraini territory in order to frighten the opposition.

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Officials in Bahrain have announced that the objective of this exercise is to upgrade the experience and boost the military capabilities of Bahrain's 3,000-strong armed forces. But political analysts believe the main factor responsible for forcing the Bahraini Government to think of boosting its Army's capability was the defeat suffered by its troops in trying to suppress the political unrest of the past 30 days.

According to informed news sources, Bahrain government troops were so incapable of confronting the waves of protest staged by this country's rebellious people that the government was compelled to ask Saudi Arabia for assistance. It is said that some of the current suppressive measures in Bahrain are being undertaken by Saudi Arabian military units.

According to the Bahraini dissidents, the recent suppressive measures have so far killed 16 people and injured dozens of others. In addition, over 2,500 dissidents have been detained during these operations. The number of the dead, injured, and detainees compared to Bahrain's total population of 350,000 shows that the wave of recent demonstrations has been the strongest political protest in Bahrain since its independence in 1971.

Looking at the issue from another angle, the Bahraini Government's decision to stage a joint military exercise with the United States and Britain given the tense situation inside that country shows to what extent the Bahraini Government is tied to foreign powers. The Bahraini Government has signed a number of defense pacts with various world powers since 1991. It is trying hard to make the people of Bahrain believe that these military pacts will preserve their security under the umbrella of a positive power balance [as heard]. Contrary to the deceptive appearance, the fact that the foreign troops present in Bahrain are confined to U.S. and British military forces only shows that Bahrain's military pacts with other international powers is an attempt to cover up that country's rulers' ties to Washington and London.

The western weekly THE ECONOMIST writes that most of the U.S. military forces stationed abroad are deployed in the Persian Gulf region. This extent of military presence exposes the kind of political links that exist between such states as Bahrain and the West.

Mohajerani Backs Off in Face of Opposition

95LA0074A London KEYHAN in Persian 24 Nov 94 p 12

[FBIS Translated Text] Ataollah Mohajerani, the deputy president [for legal and parliamentary affairs] of the Islamic Republic, tested the waters to find out whether Hashemi Rafsanjani can run for a third term as president. It is clearly stated in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic that an individual cannot be president for more than two consecutive terms. With Rafsanjani's advice, he brought up the issue of amending the Constitution.

The reaction was stronger than what Mohajerani could ignore. Not only the SALAM daily, which is unhappy with the ruling faction, but also RESALAT, which is the mouthpiece of the ruling faction, reacted strongly by saying that there are other qualified individuals in the Islamic Republic and there is no need for Rafsanjani to run for a third term and possibly become a lifetime president. Previously, we have written in this column that Rafsanjani's wish for a third term is merely wishful thinking.

No one less than Mohajerani was a witness to this. He sent an explanation to SALAM and announced that he had not suggested an amendment to the Constitution. He said: "I have not suggested that the Constitution be amended, nor do I believe in such a thing." He added that he only spoke in hypothetical terms by saying: "If article 14 of the Constitution ... could be amended, the current president is the most suitable candidate for the next term."

Mohajerani has expressed the hope that readers can distinguish between "hypothetical" and "real." Such was the way of retreat by the deputy president and the failure of the president.

Official on NPT, Agreement With Russia

LD1901204595 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1600 GMT 19 Jan 95

[Studio interview with Mansur Haji Azim, deputy head of nuclear safety at the Atomic Energy Organization, by unidentified correspondent; date not given; from the "Political Roundtable" program—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Correspondent] Could you give more information about the recent agreement signed between Iran and Russia?

[Azim] It is necessary to point out that we have no worries about contractors such as those in Russia because Russians have built more than 66 power stations in their own country and for those who have agreements with them. They have more than 30 nuclear stations under construction. Therefore, they have the potential, and God willing, they will be able to complete the work. Naturally a large number of our engineers will be active in implementing the project. They will be receiving the necessary training in Iran and Russia, and they will learn the necessary capabilities for the job.

[Correspondent] How long will it take to complete the whole power station?

[Azim] It is envisioned that it will take four years for the first phase, the first phase of the Bushehr atomic power station.

[Correspondent] And the other phases?

[Azim] Naturally, once they complete this phase, they will go on to other phases.

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[Correspondent] I have a question about the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. What is this treaty and how have countries behaved towards it?

[Azim] Regarding NPT: After the events of World Wars I and II it was felt necessary to create a supervision and control system to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. On this basis, the former Soviet Union, United States, and Great Britain prepared a text that included commitments for countries with nuclear weapons and commitments for countries without these weapons. In the 25 years since signing this treaty, we have witnessed its weak implementation, in reference to which I will give you the following figures. According to the Article I of the treaty, countries with nuclear weapons must prevent the transfer of the knowledge and the technology to others. However, access of countries such as South Africa, the Zionist regime, and Iraq indicates that countries with nuclear weapons have not kept their commitments.

It is the same with other articles. According to Article 4 of the treaty, countries with nuclear technology are responsible for cooperating with other countries in using the technology for peaceful purposes. We have seen that for countries such as ours, there have been repeated preventive acts, contrary to the text of the treaty, in the form of preventing, under various pretexts, the sale of machinery. They have imposed limitations in the different lists used by contractors. They have created limitations for the completion of the Bushehr power station project. We have all seen these. Also, the inspection system of the agency inspects all countries, including ours, from every aspect. Despite the fact that the inspections have shown the peaceful nature of all activity in all Iranian nuclear energy institutions, we have not been able to complete the project due to political reasons.

Limitations are imposed on developing countries, including the recent proposal that these countries should have their water, land, and air tested to insure there are no military implications in mind. All these limitations exist for developing countries while according to the articles of the treaty, these countries should be able to collect the necessary means for peaceful purposes. Such is the nature of this affair.

Regarding treaty commitments for countries with nuclear weapons, it should be pointed out that prior to NPT the United States had nuclear weapons with something like 4,300 megatonnes of destructive power. After the signing of the treaty in 1990 [as heard], we have witnessed that the destructive power of American nuclear weapons increase from 4,300 megatonnes to 7,100 megatonnes. During the same period, the Soviet Union's increased from something like 3,100 megatonnes to 13,000 mega tonnes. They were committed, according to NPT, to reduce these weapons. The figures that I presented were for the period from 1970 to 1990.

Even if agreements were signed for limiting the weapons, the quality of their operations has improved. If they had weapons with particular destructive powers, they limited their numbers, as in the case of SALT [Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty]. However, they have turned to improving the quality of the weapons. For instance, a weapon called Mir has been produced in the Soviet Union with a destructive power several times that of those previous to it.

Therefore, countries with nuclear weapons have failed their commitments as stated in the treaty, both in terms of quantity and quality. They have transferred the technology to other countries, with South Africa, the Zionist regime, and Iraq being cases in point; and according to their own official figures, they have increased both the quality and quantity of the weapons. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] There is a question here. As you yourself mentioned, Iran itself is a signatory to the NPT, and an issue concerning nuclear activities is their inspection by the NPT experts and inspectors, and Iran in many occasions has received such inspectors—what is behind the world arrogance's propaganda against Iran in this regard?

[Azim] I think that these kind of reports, which increase every now and then, are coordinated with a series of policies. What I can refer to are two major aims. One is basically to divert all attention from Israel. Israel has violated many rules and regulations on the use of nuclear energy. It possesses nuclear weapons, does not accept inspection by the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] and has not signed the NPT. Very well, the world public opinion would naturally want to know what a country with such a dangerous potential [preceding word in English] is going to do about the conference next year, which is going to review the extension of the NPT? What position will it take? One of the aims of such rumors is to divert all attention that is focused on Israel.

Another aim that I believe they are following is that they want to incite us and mislead us. Our country is huge and has much potential. The programs of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Government are programs that comprise economic development. Therefore, if they leave us alone we can achieve economic growth. Very well, one way to divert us from our goal is to force us to react through the spread of such rumors and naturally, we should be vigilant in this regard.

You have a number of good examples in this regard: that of Japan and Germany. They managed to give a suitable response to possible impositions by other countries using the weapon of their economy. Perhaps one of the aims of the two countries was to produce nuclear weapons. But in any case, they managed to succeed. We also work along the same lines. As the Islamic Republic of Iran has believed all along, we should naturally remain committed to our obligations to the NPT—of course, an NPT that is properly implemented.

As I mentioned earlier, the NPT mentions that this technology should not be transferred to other countries.

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We have a question in this regard—how did such countries as Iraq, South Africa, and the Zionist regime manage to obtain them. The NPT says that the peaceful use of nuclear energy should be encouraged. Very well, we have always been prepared to accept their inspectors at our power stations round the clock, we have also accepted the charges, and we also say that we are prepared to return the waste from such power stations to the exporting countries. Then what is the reason for stopping the peaceful use of nuclear energy for a country that intends to carry on with its economic programs?

Therefore, if the NPT is properly implemented, we want the countries that possess nuclear weapons to continue with their commitments to reduce and destroy such weapons within the framework of Article 6 of the NPT. My personal belief is that the NPT should be properly implemented and the Islamic Republic of Iran's proposal for the creation of nuclear-free zones should be also implemented, particularly in the Middle East region.

Also, a timetable should be drawn up for reducing nuclear weapons. Therefore, if the NPT is properly implemented we naturally welcome it. And our position in this regard should not be limited to reactions to such rumors.

[Correspondent] I thank you Your Excellency Azim for your time and for coming to our studio.

[Azim] I thank you.

Discord Among the Clergy on Source of Emulation

95LA0074E London KEYHAN in Persian 8 Dec 94 pp 1, 4

[FBIS Translated Text] The battle over Shiite marja'iyat, which began with the death of Ayatollah Mohammad Araki, has assumed new dimensions because of the arrival on the scene of new factors and elements. Initially, the Tehran Society of Combatant Clergy published a list of names of individuals qualified to ba a marja', and 'Ali Khamene'i's name was missing from the list. In a new list, Khamene'i's name has been mentioned. Also, the Society of Qom Theologians published a list that includes Khamene'i's name.

Meanwhile, clerics "outside the regime" do not accept any of the said individuals as the "most learned theologian." First among the "most learned theologians" is Grand Ayatollah Seyyed Hasan Tabataba'i Qomi, who, according to the informed sources, is under house arrest at his home in Mashhad. Also, Grand Ayatollahs Seyyed Mohammad Rowhani and Seyyed Sadeq Rowhani are under house arrest at their homes in Qom.

Meanwhile, a letter signed by a few influential clerics in the regime, including Mahdavi Kani, 'Abdolkarim Musavi Ardabili, Mohammadi Gilani, Mu'men Mohaqeq Damad, and Mahfuzi was published. In this letter, Ayatollah Montazeri was named as marja'-e taqlid. While the mass media in Tehran has called this letter a "forgery," in an interview with the Persian language program of French international radio, 'Ezatollah Sahabi indirectly confirmed the existence of such a letter. However, he said that he contacted Mahdavi Kani and Mahfuzi, and they told him that they had not signed the letter but they did not deny the existence of the letter.

The daily newspaper SALAM (published in Tehran,) wrote that, weeks before such letters and statements were published, because of the approaching death of Ayatollah Araki, discussions and arguments had begun among influential clerics in Qom and Tehran on this subject. The question was, who should become the marja' after the death of Ayatollah Araki. According to SALAM, the publication of a list without the name of Khamene'i followed those arguments. SALAM writes that for a week after the publication of that list, including the names of Ayatollahs Behjat, Javad Tabrizi, and Fazel Lankarani, no one denied the list.

Meanwhile, not only 'Ali Meshkini, Mohammad Yazdi, and Ahmad Jannati, believe that 'Ali Khamene'i is the only individual qualified to be the marja', but also the Majles has issued a statement announcing that Grand Ayatollah Khamene'i is the only individual who can combine positions of leadership and marja'iyat. The Islamic Republic News Agency has published the statement without indicating the number of signatories.

It is interesting that Ayatollah Khomeyni never considered Khamene'i to be a theologian worthy of becoming marja'-e taqlid. When he was the president, Khamene'i said in a sermon that if Salman Rushdi repents, he will be pardoned by the Imam and Umah. Khomeyni responded by saying that he, Khamene'i, is not in a religious position to pass such a judgement. After that response from Khomeyni, Khamene'i reversed himself and said that he follows the line of the Imam on this issue as on other issues.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahmud Tabataba'i Qomi, the son of Ayatollah Tabataba'i Qomi, said in an interview with London KEYHAN, which will be published next week, that "marja'iyat is not an issue to play with." He emphasized that marja' must be free from government influence and said: "Grand Ayatollah Qomi said that an Islamic government is not practical and I do not accept it.... Do not mix the name of Islam with political issues and government interests!"

In a letter to the secretary general of the United Nations, Dr. Mehdi Ha'eri referred to the "oppressive war" waged by Mohammad Yazdi, 'Ali Meshkini, Ahmad Jannati, and Reyshahri against the clerics. Dr. Ha'eri called the Special Court of Clergy a tool for the repression of clergy opponents of the regime and added "according to accurate statistics, 600 opposing clerics have been condemned to execution, more than 1,000 have been stripped of their position, and 1,000 have been imprisoned, flogged, or banished." It is not clear how many of the 600 have been already executed.

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Paper Reports on Ahmad Khomeyni's Visit

95LA0074B London KEYHAN in Persian 24 Nov 94 p 12

[FBIS Translated Text] In politics, there is rarely anything that is impossible. Everything is possible in politics, especially in the Islamic Republic. For example, when the daily AL-SHARA' writes that Ahmad Khomeyni visited Ayatollah Montazeri in Qom, it may surprise people, but such a thing is not impossible.

The visit itself would not have been surprising if not for the fact that Ahmad Khomeyni wrote the "Record of Imam's Sorrows" in 1368 [21 Mar 89-20 Mar 90], which was the basis for the removal of Montazeri from power. It was more than a mere "Record of Sorrows." Rather, it was a condemnation containing all manner of accusations against a "highly esteemed jurisprudent" who was supposed to succeed the departed Imam.

The AL-SHARA' story should not be taken lightly. It was the same daily that, according to sources close to Montazeri in Qom, revealed the news about McFarlane's trip to Iran and instigated the Irangate scandal.

If Montazeri agreed to meet with Ahmad, he must have received Ahmad as a repentant. If the news is true, it proves that the regime in Tehran is more powerless than ever before and that Montazeri's influence among the dissatisfied seminarians is expanding. An informed source said that even without such a visit the regime's weakness in the Islamic Republic is obvious.

Clerics in Disagreement on Marja'iyat

95LA0074C London KEYHAN in Persian 1 Dec 94 pp 1, 9

[FBIS Translated Text] The approaching death of Mohammad 'Ali Araki, who is 106 years old, has deepened and intensified the battle among the Iranian clerics on marja'iyat. After the death of Ayatollah Golpaygani, clerics in the Islamic Republic entered into a temporary compromise by accepting Araki as the marja'. Now that Araki's approaching death is certain, that compromise has turned into a widespread and extensive battle for marja'iyat.

The "Tehran Society of Combatant Clergy," which together with the "Society of Qom Theologians" is the most influential clerical organization in Iran, has issued a statement naming those who are most qualified to become a marja' after the death of Araki. Four ayatollahs are named in this statement, namely, Vahid Khorasani, Javad Tabrizi, Behjat, and Fazel Lankarani. Also mentioned in a secondary position are Makarem Shirazi and Musavi Zanjani. The name of 'Ali Khamene'i does not appear in the statement.

The "Society of Qom Theologians," spearheaded by the head of the Assembly of Experts 'Ali Meshkini, Chief of the Judiciary Mohammad Yazdi, and Ahmad Jannati, says the publication of the above statement is causing the "weakening of the leadership" in the Islamic Republic. They believe that marja'iyat and leadership must be integrated in one person, 'Ali Khamene'i.

The battle for succession after Araki as marja'-e taqlid is currently being waged at three interrelated levels—among the ruling clerics; between the ruling clerics and clerics outside the regime, such as Ayatollah Mohammad Ruhani and Ayatollah Hoseyn-'Ali Montazeri; and between Najaf and Qom. Najaf had remained silent on the marja'iyat of Ayatollah Araki because they considered it to be a temporary measure, but now it emphasizes the marja'iyat of Ayatollah Sistani, who claimed marja'iyat for himself after the death of Ayatollah Abolqasem Kho'i.

Despite all their deep differences, the Qom ayatollahs are in agreement that marja'iyat belongs to Qom.

Some informed sources believe that the publication of a list of names by the "Tehran Society of Combatant Clergy" without the name of Khamene'i is a step toward separation of state and religion. Dr. Mehdi Ha'eri believes that the publication of the statement by the "Tehran Society of Combatant Clergy," which is the oldest and greatest of all clerical organizations, is a "turning point" that "separates the above organization from the clerics supporting marja'iyat for Khamene'i, and it means that this organization has joined the group of Shiite clerics who want separation between state and religion." It is interesting to know that Khamene'i, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Mohi ol-Din Anvari, Emami Kashani, and some other influential clerics are themselves members of the above Society.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Role

The role played by Hashemi-Rafsanjani deserves special attention. The list published by the Society of Combatant Clergy appeared first in an English daily newspaper (close to Hashemi-Rafsanjani) called, IRAN NEWS. Then it was carried by RESALAT.

The Tehran Society of Combatant Clergy, headed by Mahdavi Kani, has considerable influence in the Majles and among the Friday prayer imams. In the Islamic Republic, Mahdavi Kani has occupied positions of prime minister, interior minister, head of revolution committees, and official in charge of mosques. He was the one who, at Khomeyni's behest, delivered the will and testament of the Leader of the Revolution and Founder of the Islamic Republic to Mashhad to be kept at the shrine of Imam Reza. He has been always more important behind the scenes in the Islamic Republic. Informed observers believe that, seeking partners in his battle against Khamene'i and his associates, Rafsanjani has recently banded with those clerics who want to separate marja'iyat from leadership. In defense of this principle, Mahdavi Kani has said that separation of marja'iyat and leadership in the Constitution is based on the fact that marja'iyat is essentially a religious institution and leadership is a political one.

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But, Chief of Judiciary Mohammad Yazdi strongly attacked this idea in a speech in Hamadan. He said that, although leadership is not conditioned upon marja'iyat, there is nothing preventing the leader from being the marja' too. Ahmad Jannati, an influential member of the Council of Guardians, was even more direct. He said that, any decree issued by the marja' is "void of authority" until it is approved by the leader, and "the leader's decrees take precedence over those of the marja'." He called the publication of the list of maraje' to be an effort at "separation of religion and state" and warned about the consequences of such a move. He added: "Such plots are planned in London."

Appearance of Rift

The rift between the Tehran Society of Combatant Clergy and the Society of Qom Theologians appeared not long ago, following the death of Ayatollah Seyyed Reza Sadr in Qom. The Society of Qom Theologians wanted to keep his death as a low key event because Ayatollah Sadr was among the staunchest opponents of Ruhollah Khomeyni and 'Ali Khamene'i. But, the Tehran Society of Combatant Clergy held large memorial gatherings in Qom and Tehran and, as a result, intensified the differences between the two organizations. Meanwhile, the leaders of both organizations try to attract those clerics who have remained silent on the differences. For example, Ayatollah Sadeq Ruhani was allowed after 10 years to give a speech outside his house. He seized this opportunity and, at Jamaran Mosque near Qom, strongly attacked the current regime. Following his speech, he was returned to his home by security agents.

Meanwhile, the Special Court of Clergy, in an attempt to silence those clerics and seminarians who are against the regime, has begun a widespread campaign of arrests. Dr. Mehdi Ha'eri has mentioned that "hundreds of the opponents of the regime" among the clerics have been imprisoned. The news we have received from Iran, more or less, confirms the arrests.

Dr. Mehdi Ha'eri said: "More eventful developments are about to unfold... and the country is pregnant with weighty developments."

Khamene'i's Name Missing From List of Maraje'

95LA0074D London KEYHAN in Persian 1 Dec 94 p 12

[FBIS Translated Text] Ayatollah Mohammad 'Ali Araki has no hope of living much longer. The Shiite leaders are preparing the ground to keep the marja'iyat in Iran and Qom. They face the threat that, even if it stays in Iran, marja'iyat may be established outside of Qom. To prevent such a development, they have announced four candidates. There are two interesting points about the list of candidates: First, all the candidates are regime clerics. Second, the name of Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Republic, is not on the list. This demonstrates the fact that even in Qom and among the regime clerics, Khamene'i is not considered a winning card.

Also, absent from the list are the names of such prominent theologians as Ayatollah Mohammad Ruhani and Ayatollah Montazeri, although they are considered by the observers to be higher in rank than those announced by the Society of Combatant Clergy as qualified to be a marja'.

Exclusive Interview With Hojjat ol-Eslam Qomi

95LA0074F London KEYHAN in Persian 15 Dec 94 p 12

[Report on interview with Seyyed Mahmud Qomi, son of Ayatollah ol-Ozma Seyyed Hasan Tabataba'i Qomi; place and date not given: "Bravely Grant the Nation its Freedom Before It Rises in Revolution";

[FBIS Translated Text] On marja'iyat [one who is qualified as source of emulation], Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mahmud Qomi said: Marja'iyat is not an issue to be played with and made a toy or to be mixed with personal and governmental objectives and motivations. Marja'iyat is a spiritual matter. Marja'-e Taqlid [preeminent source of emulation] is the representative of Saheb ol-Zaman [Lord of the ages]. In the absence of Saheb ol-Zaman, there are three categories of Muslims: Moqalled [emulator], those who are supposed to emulate; Moqallad [one who is emulated], one who is the source of emulation; and the third category consists of those who can partially understand the Islamic ordinances and act cautiously without seeking a source of emulation. There are very few people in the last category. Emulation is compulsory and must be practiced. On government intervention in determining the marja' [religious scholar and leader], Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahmud Qomi said: Marja'iyat is not an issue for governments to meddle with and appoint or remove a marja'. Every government has its own priorities, and even if it is a good government, it has its own interests in mind and will use the marja' for government purposes. This is abhorrent to the principles of spirituality. In my opinion and the opinion of true clergy, state and religion must be separate. A government cannot be religious and at the same time interfere in political affairs. These two are incompatible. Every government commits some violations. For example, a government borrows money and pays interest. Paying interest is forbidden in Islam. How could a true marja' approve of such things? Another example is that in Islam, religious tax is what is paid to the marja' and the marja' spends it on public welfare and what benefits the society. Therefore, an Islamic government will receive such amounts and will also charge separate taxes. This is not in accordance with religious laws. From the beginning, my father, the esteemed Marja' of the Shia community, Grand Ayatollah Mr. Qomi, said that the Islamic government is not practical and he will not accept it. He told Mr. Khomeyni not to call the government the Islamic Republic and just call it

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the Republic if he wanted. Unfortunately, he did not listen and as a result, Islam, Shiism, and clergy were seriously disgraced. The world has judged the actions of this government as Islamic and Islam became disgraced. In any case, it is not for governments to interfere in marja'iyat.

On terrorism carried out in the name of Islam, Hojjat ol-Eslam Qomi said: Terrorism, torture, bombing, explosions, and hostage-taking have no place in Islam and are against Islam. We have no right to take a non-Muslim as a hostage and imprison and torture him for our political purposes, or cause explosions and oppression, acts that unfortunately are being committed in the name of Islam. As an expert in Islamic affairs, I am ready to debate at international forums with anyone, anywhere in the world, including clergy and leaders, who believe in such actions and values, so that the world learns that nowhere in Islam, nowhere in any Islamic sect, has such behavior, such as violations against tourists, been prescribed. These actions are wholly condemned in Islam. To topple a regime and take over the government, the Islamic Republic committed such acts. They replaced a government and proved that they are a hundred times worse. They caused explosions and terrorism, burned the economic centers, took over people's property, and created a Foundation for the Oppressed. In the name of oppressed people, they took over people's property and handed it over to this foundation. They created a monster of wealth in Iran and did not give anything to the oppressed. I have reliable information that the funds from the Foundation for the Oppressed are used by the Iranian leaders. The oppressed are even more oppressed now. Neither electricity, nor telephone or water service became free of charge. People have no livelihood or a life. Conditions are worsening daily.

On the individuals who have been declared as nominees for marja'iyat, the son of Grand Ayatollah Qomi said: Those groups that are connected to the government, such as the Society of Combatant Clergy or the Society of Qom Seminary Teachers, have recommended individuals, some of whom I have respect for, as they are good people, like Mr. Vahid Khorasani, Behjat, Zanjani, and Tabrizi. These are pious people. Unfortunately, they are approved for marja'iyat by certain individuals and by the government, and they are going to use them for their own interest. I appeal to those gentlemen who have been nominated to reject the appointment for the sake of the protection of Islam, Shiism, clerics, and their own reputation. I have accurate information that these gentlemen, in their hearts and minds, have been strong opponents of the regime, but the circumstances in Iran have not given them the opportunity to express their opinions. These gentlemen never agree to such things. Essentially, nothing has changed after the death of Mr. Araki. Mr. Araki was appointed by the government, and now the government wants to appoint others. True maraje' [plural of marja'] of Shiism, true maraje' of people do exist. In all periods, there have been maraje' at the same time with marja'-e a'la [the supreme source of emulation]. At present, the marja'-e a'la of Shiism is Ayatollah Qomi. No government should tamper with this fact. During the time of Mr. Borujerdi or Mr. Kho'i, there was one marja'-e a'la and some other maraje'. They are all respectable. Today, Mr. Qomi is the just and true marja' a'la. Mr. Qomi himself is not willing to be the subject of advertisements on this issue because he does not permit the funds from public treasury and religious funds to be used for the promotion of his marja'iyat. A Shiite marja' should possess two distinguishing attributes: A marja' must be the most learned and the most pious. Only Mr. Qomi is the most learned. The rest of the gentlemen in Qom are respectable maraje', such as Seyyed Mohammad Rowhani, Seyyed Sadeq Rowhani, Mr. Montazeri, who in recent years purified himself, and some others who are alienated by the regime. Mr. Sistani in al-Najaf is very respectable. He is learned and pious. They are all qualified to be marja'. As for the supreme marja'iyat of Mr. Qomi, it is not only I as his son who believes in this, but, if they were free, the entire Islamic community would admit this fact without any doubt.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Qomi described the current affairs in Iran as most unfortunate. On the topic of the dissatisfaction of seminarians and clerics with the Islamic Republic, he said: It is hard to decide where to start and which problem to cover. Nobody knows more than I about the background of the officials of the Islamic Republic and their present engagements. I am aware of the extent of the wealth accumulated by them, their violations, and their future plans. Most of the clerics, ranging from seminarians to maraje', are opposed to them because they have suffered at their hands, they have been imprisoned and tortured by them, and have been deprived of their clerical role and forced to flee. They have deprived individuals of clerical positions that is unprecedented in the history of Islam. Unfortunately, these officials have taken unheard-of initiatives in Islam, such as depriving individuals of marja'iyat. These officials have no right to deprive an individual of marja'iyat. Marja'iyat is not like an outfit to fit to specific individuals. It is not like a wealth to give or take. Marja'iyat is a divine cause. Knowledge and piety qualify a person for marja'iyat, and these attributes cannot be granted to someone. These officials are so stupid that they commit such acts. Any cleric who is opposed to them is arrested under false accusations. Soon, their press may bring up accusations against me too. We mentioned to Mr. Qomi that in the past, the Iranian nation had a different view about clerics, that clerics used to create a sense of peace and tranquility in people, and they discussed religious matters with people. Generally, a cleric had a different role in the past. Presently, the new generation of clerics seems to have studied at seminaries so that they may become cabinet ministers, general directors, agents, and inspectors. He said:

My father has always said that no cleric should be engaged in government work. A cleric's position is higher

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than these issues. Maraje' should oversee the government but should not become rulers themselves. Clerics must point out violations by the government and make the righteous people known to the nation so that they are elected. Clerics should not even recommend anyone. There was no precedent in the past for any marja' to appoint officials to government positions.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Qomi continued:

I have repeatedly admonished the leaders in Iran, especially Mr. Khamene'i who, fortunately or unfortunately, I have had a long association with from the time when we were young and he was at our home and the rest of them were also spending time at our home and around my father. I address them to be bold and give freedom to the nation before a revolution takes place and an uprising occurs. They should act wisely. God has said that we must bring ourselves to account in this world before we are forced to account for our deeds. They must free political prisoners, ban torture, and prohibit confiscation of people's property. They must return confiscated property. Did you not criticize the government when Nasiri was the head of SAVAK?

I know Sheykh 'Ali Fallahian very well. He was a seminarian at Haqqani seminary in Qom. Unfortunately, he was not a true seminarian. He was adventurous and known as a lazy person. There was a group of them who were students of Mr. Qoddusi. I wish they had learned something from him. Reyshahri and other vicious ones are the worst elements among the clerics. The world must get to know them. They even plot against clerics. It is necessary that you print their names in bold letters. 'Ali Fallahian, Reyshahri, Sadeq Khalkhali, and Sheykh 'Abbas Tabasi (deputy administrator of the shrine of Imam Reza). There have been many deputy administrators in the history of Khorasan and these gentlemen used to criticize them a lot. Now they have made this person to rule over the lives and property of people.

Other names are Hadi Ghaffari, Lajevardi, and Musavi Tabrizi. I address Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani: Were we not together in the same prison cell at Qezel-Qal'eh prison where Mr. Saqi was our warden. Did he commit any of the atrocities that Lajevardi commits? I was never slapped even once by Saqi. Once, I saw you limping a little bit and you said that you had been beaten on the leg. Was it at all comparable to the extreme torture going on now? Mr. Khalkhali has testified himself that he was never slapped in the prison. But he executed a thousand people. These individuals must be removed. Freedom must come.

Fortunately, I know everything about these individuals. Nobody on the face of the earth knows about them more than I. I have accepted all the risk and am battling the terrorists from Iran and the world. Our life is in the hands of God. It does not matter if we are killed by these degraded individuals. We are ready. I declare that these individuals are criminals. They are terrorists. What happened to your faith? Do you not believe in God any more? Mr. Khamene'i! Have you not become acquainted with Sheikh Tabasi at our home? You know that we gave Sheikh Tabasi his turban. We gave him everything he has. He was paid by my father and now, all major transactions are carried out by him and his children.

Why are you borrowing so much money from foreign countries? You have accumulated $30 billion or more debt. Why do you have to pay so much interest to foreigners? Is interest not forbidden in Islam? So much oil and revenue in the country has been wasted. At the end, Hojjat ol-Eslam Qomi said: I am surprised at the German Government for receiving a terrorist named Fallahian as a responsible official. They should have arrested and imprisoned him. Do not let such individuals into your country, and if you do, arrest them and punish them according to laws.

Nuclear Plant Said To Show 'Potential'

NC2001103495 Tehran SALAM in Persian 9 Jan 95 p 8

[Commentary by Sa'id Leylaz: "A New Era in International Relations"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Russia's energy minister has come to Tehran at the head of a delegation to discuss with his Iranian counterpart the final stages of an agreement to complete the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant [BNPP]. Based on extensive talks, the BNPP will be completed by the Russians within two years according to the latest world standards and with the capacity to produce 1,000 megawatts of energy [no timeframe specified]. Hundreds of Iranian experts are to be trained in Russia to operate the nuclear plant.

A considerable part of the power plant's equipment is to be designed and manufactured by domestic contractors—an important step toward improving our country's technological potential. Apparently the signing of the agreement and the completion of the BNPP are so important that 160 Russian experts are at work at the power plant. [passage omitted]

Once Germany decided not to complete the plant because of U.S. pressure on it in a bid to prevent any significant technological cooperation between Europe and the Islamic Republic of Iran, Russia expressed its readiness to complete the plant at a much lower cost than the Germans. And Russia has also granted various benefits, which are not usually included by Western contractors, such as the training of Iranian experts, participation by domestic contractors in the project, the transfer of technology, and so on.

This can be a good lesson for our country's economic officials to realize that they should not be convinced by tattered beliefs that East European, Asian, Indian, and other countries' technology are not suitable and that technical know-how originates only from West Europe. Various experiences in recent decades have shown that if the club of developing countries wants to rely on its

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domestic technical know-how and resources and cooperate toward economic, social, and technological development, it can succeed. The experiences of Southeast Asia, China, Vietnam, India, and others are proof of this. [passage omitted]

Now there is no international political pressure preventing cooperation with former "Red" countries. The growing scientific and economic achievements of the developing countries have proven the falseness of the tale that technological standards in these countries are low. These conditions can herald the beginning of a new era of extensive international relations, the outcome of which will be the inclusion of a powerful and comprehensive pole in political-economic equations in the 21st century—the pole of the developing countries.

*Postal Service Facing Financial Problems

95LA0081D Tehran ABRAR in Persian 21 Dec 94 p 9

[FBIS Translated Text] Tehran—IRNA: As of the first of the month of Dey [22 December] until further notice, postal units throughout the country will stop accepting any kind of foreign airmail, whether it be letters, printed matter, parcels, or small packages.

The postal company said the reason for this measure is the company's financial problems with Islamic Republic of Iran Airlines.

The Public Relations Office of the Postal Company reports that in a letter to the Postal Company the Airline Company announced that, as of the first of the month of Dey, it will no longer give air service to this company.

According to this report, 95 percent of the Postal Company's debt to Islamic Republic of Iran Airlines is from the past, and because of the fact that rates for mail were not appropriate for the costs, it has not yet been possible to settle the accounts.

The report from the Public Relations Office of the Postal Company adds that the calculation of new air rates at the floating foreign exchange rate and the increase of domestic shipping costs by the Airline Company have also made problems with the repayment of 500 percent of previous debts.

At the same time the postal company emphasized that it has no special problems sending surface mail.

The public relations office of the Islamic Republic of Iran Airline Company confirmed that this company has financial problems with the Postal Company, but said nothing about not providing shipping services to the Postal Company.

*Expansion Planned for Sari Airport

95LA0081B Tehran ABRAR in Persian 22 Dec 94 p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] Sari—ABRAR Correspondent: In the next year, when the Sari Airport is equipped, international flights from Mazandaran will begin from this airport.

Geranmayeh, governor general of Mazandaran, gave an exclusive interview to ABRAR's correspondent in which he announced the above. He added: The runway is now being widened and equipment is being installed at this airport.

He discussed the agreement that has been reached with the Wounded Veterans of the Revolution Foundation to develop the Sari Airport. He said: With the agreement of the chief of the National Wounded Veterans of the Islamic Revolution Foundation, 1,300 square meters of land belonging to this foundation were added to the airport.

The governor general of Mazandaran discussed the resources that have been created to bring the Sari Airport up to international flight standards. He said: The National Airline Organization has purchased $3 million in advanced navigational equipment for this airport, and it is already being installed.

Geranmayeh discussed the initiatives taken by domestic specialists in installing equipment at the Sari Airport. He said: For the first time in the nation, the installation of night flight lights has been done by domestic specialists at the Sari Airport.

He announced the fact that installation of the equipment at the Sari Airport began with preliminary credits of 300 million rials. He noted: With the completion of the construction and with the widening of the runway at this airport, direct flights by Mazandarani pilgrims to Jedda will begin next year.

*Karbala Highway Construction Plans Detailed

95LA0081C Tehran ABRAR in Persian 21 Dec 94 p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] Kermanshah—ABRAR Correspondent: More than 20 percent of the construction to make the Karbala Highway in the Province of Kermanshah a four-lane road has been completed.

Our correspondent reports that one of the officials at the Province of Kerman Office of Roads and Transportation announced the above. He said: Of the 376 km of the Karbala Highway in the Province of Kermanshah, to be built between the municipalities of Kangavar and Qasr-e Shirin, so far 106 km have been begun for four segments between Kermanshah and Bistun, Bistun and Sahneh, Kermanshah and Eslamabad, and Sar Pol-e Zahab and Qasr-e Shirin, 52 percent of which has been completed at a cost of 6 billion rials [R].

He said the credits for this project this year will be R4.354 billion. He said: So far 40 percent of the credits have been used, and the rest will be spent by the end of this year. It is worth mentioning that the Karbala Highway, going to Iraq on the one hand and to the nation's connective and international roads on the other, has an important role to play in attracting tourism and pilgrimages to Karbala from inside and outside the country, and also in developing and expanding economic

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programs in the region. If the credits are obtained in time, it will be completed by the end of the Second Five-Year Plan.

*Kermanshah Industry, Mines Figures Released

95LA0081E Tehran ABRAR in Persian 21 Dec 94 p 9

[FBIS Translated Text] Kermanshah—ABRAR Correspondent: There are 54,118 factories engaged in economic activity in the Province of Kermanshah.

Our correspondent reports that the official in charge of the Industry and Mines Census Project announced the above in an interview. He said: With the completion of the Industry and Mines Census Project in the province, 55,118 factories have been identified in the province, of which 54,400 have are economically active.

*Second Phase of Census To Begin

95LA0081F Tehran ABRAR in Persian 27 Dec 94 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Economic Service: With the completion of the first phase of the General Industry and Mines Census, which was carried out throughout the country from the beginning of Aban to the middle of Azar this year [23 October-6 December 1994], activities have begun at the Iran Statistics Center to plan and carry out the second phase.

The Public Relations Office of the Iran Statistics Center reports that the second phase of the census will be conducted extensively in the area of the nation's various industrial activities, and in view of the diversity of types of industrial, research and investigative activities to obtain the needed statistics and information, the second phase of the census has special importance.

In this regard, in carrying out this phase of the Industry and Mines General Census, the Iran Statistics Center took measurements in the areas of technology, production capacity, and environment in cooperation with specialists, researchers, and university professors.

The Iran Statistics Center asked those interested in cooperating in the above areas to contact this center's Office for Statistical Projects during business hours.

*Qasemabad Telephone Center Begins Operations

95LA0081H Tehran ABRAR in Persian 22 Dec 94 p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] Shahriar: ABRAR Correspondent: With the startup of the 256-number Qasemabad telephone center, and with the addition of the prefix 02662, telephone communication was established between the inhabitants of this village and the rest of the country.

Our correspondent reports that Esma'il-Nezhad, official in charge of the Shahriar Telephone Office, announced the above at a press conference. He said: With the allocation of 18 FX lines in Shahriar and with the opening of telephone offices in the industrial villages and the rural areas of Khaveh, Qajrabad, Reza Abadpa'in, Reza Abadbala and several others, telephone communications have been established between the residents of the aforementioned areas and the rest of the country.

*Electricity Production Subject of Seminar

95LA0081A Tehran ABRAR in Persian 21 Dec 94 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Economic Service: A seminar for electrical power production managers began yesterday morning, attended by Ministry of Energy electrical power officials and electrical power management managers throughout the country.

The Public Relations Office of the Tavanir Company reports that on the first day of this seminar, which was held at the Tavanir Company's Central Staff Headquarters, Engineer Mohammad Malaki, deputy minister of energy for electrical power affairs and supervisor of the Tavanir Company, gave a speech in which he expressed satisfaction with the progress made in the last few years in the electrical power production industry and praised in this regard the efforts of the officials running the electrical power industry.

In his speech he cited as important the following measures that have been taken to improve the nation's electrical power production:

- The preparation by production managers of reports on the events worth studying at the power plants, and their presentation at the relevant meetings.
- The change of policies of companies such as Takab and Power Repairs, making them into units for parts support and power plant repairs, and centralizing repair operations in these companies at the power plants.
- The creation of operational consultation units to supervise repair operations, using the experiences of other countries and also using the knowledge and experiences of the retired personnel in the electrical power industry in the framework of a special organization or center.
- Giving electrical power production managers a role to play in national dispatching responsibilities and in implementing electrical power production projects.

In his talk, Engineer Malaki also discussed the importance of storing liquid fuel. He emphasized its role in preventing some of the basic problems arising from cyclical fuel shortages, and advised that power plants do more of this.

In conclusion, the executive director of the Tavanir Company called for the creation of a council called the Operational Council, consisting of power plant managers, to study the operational issues in the production of electrical power at such meetings as this.

As the seminar of electrical power production managers continued, Engineer Soleymani, deputy manager of the

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Tavanir Company for dispatching and operations, presented a report on emergency outages at power plant units. He said: In the first six months of the current year [21 March-23 September 1994] there was a 1.4 percent reduction in emergency outages at the units compared to the same period last year.

Elsewhere in his report Engineer Soleymani discussed the new record in basic repairs done at the units by Iranian specialists. He praised the efforts of the workers at the Eslamabad power plant and at Esfahan's Martyr Montazeri power plant in making basic repairs to the 320-and 200-megawatt units at these power plants in a period of 90 days, which is considered a new world record.

It is worth mentioning that the seminar for electrical power production managers will continue for three days.

Wind-Generated Power Station Begins Operations

LD1901205995 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] First Vice President Hasan Habibi was present as two units of the first wind-generated power station started in the towns of Manjil and Rudbar.

The units have been constructed under the supervision of experts and specialists from Iran's Atomic Energy Organization in a 20 hectare area. The units have two wind turbines producing 6,000 megawatts of electricity annually required by 2,000 local households.

Some 400 millian rials and 4 million German marks in foreign currency have been spent for the construction and operation of the units.

Pakistan

Spokesman on Bhutto's Apr Visit to U.S.

BK1901140495 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto will pay an official visit to the United States from the 10th of April this year at the invitation of President Clinton. The prime minister is expected to address a broader agenda for forging a new relationship between the two countries in the post-Cold War era. She will meet President Clinton at the White House on 11th of April to discuss bilateral cooperation between the two countries in various fields, including investment, trade, technology, and defense.

A Foreign office spokesman while giving details of the prime minister's visit to the United States said the contentious issues between the two countries will not be the focus of the prime minister's visit. These matters can come out during the talks, but there is a more specialized forum—the consultative committee—which has been revived during U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry's recent visit to Pakistan, to deal with such matters. The spokesman said:

[Begin spokesman recording] It will be a wide canvas on which the prime minister and the president of the United States will be developing a new relationship between the two countries. Thus the dates .... [incomplete sentence as heard] [end recording]

No One Asking for 'Rollback' of Nuclear Program

BK2001103195 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 20 Jan 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Senheri (Tharparkar) (APF)—Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said that no one is asking Pakistan to roll back its nuclear progamme unilaterally because of her government's successful foreign policy.

Addressing a public gathering held in connection with the ground breaking ceremony to 1320 MW coal fired power plant near Islamkot, some 80 kilometers from Mitthi Thursday she said that the recent visit of the US defence secretary after 12 years also spoke of the success of country's foreign policy.

Benazir said Pakistan was now being regarded as "a moderate Islamic country" which was another big achievement of her government.

She also ridiculed the opposition's propaganda that she was aspiring for the post of UN secretary general. "I am seeking no UN job. How can I desert my people with whom I struggled for the democracy and remained in jail for a long period", she said.

Regarding Kashmir issue she said that her government would continue to make efforts for early solution of the issue. She said for the first time the world had accepted that Kashmir problem should be resolved.

Benazir has categorically rejected all the speculations about Gwadar being sold out to any foreign country.

She declared Gwadar was the part of Pakistan and it would remain so. The national flag would always flutter over there, she remarked.

She said that present government had restored law and order in Sindh and sent the army back to barracks after normalcy returned.

She said that the elements serving the vested interests wanted to disturb peace of the province. However, the government would frustrate all such designs on their part and use all its resources to ensure peace and tranquility as well as security to the life and property of law abiding citizens.

She said that the government was not afraid of opposition's propaganda and it would use only constitutional and democratic weapons to meet their challenges.

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She said that the government had decided to develop backward areas of Sindh and Balochistan as well as the urban areas such as Karachi.

She said that record investment had come in the country within one year of her government because of its transparent policy which was quite different from that of the previous government.

Benazir announced that her government was considering a canal water project for Thar area.

She also announced a number of other development programmes for the area on the occasion.

She said that 1000 line telephone exchange would be established in Umarkot and 10 more PCOs would be opened in the Tharparkar district. Electrification of another [figures indistinct] villages, implementation of 90 water supply schemes, sinking of 500 tube-wells also included in the package and Rs.25 million would be provided for the project by federal government.

Benazir said that she would inaugurate the operation of the country's biggest coal fired power project in August 1997 to commensurate it with country's 50th Independence Day.

She said that it would be a gift to the nation on the occasion of golden jubilee celebration of Pakistan.

Peacekeeping Role at Top of Foreign Policy List

BK1501131995 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 14 Jan 95 pp 1, 12

[Report by Shakil Shaikh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad—In order to increase its role in the international peacekeeping operations at different troubled location, it has been decided that Pakistan's foreign policy will have this important item on "top of the priority list" for the future.

Official sources in the Foreign Office, confirming this, told The News that Pakistan has started to work out a "major plan" to deploy its troops for the UN peacekeeping operations, wherever these troops are required for such purposes, keeping in view its own defence and security.

"This international peacekeeping matter was discussed in the January 10 Pak-US defence talks and US Defence Secretary William Perry had left some ideas with his Pakistani counterpart for an increase cooperation in that important area of foreign policy" said the sources.

Pakistan's participation in peacekeeping work, said official sources is in line with UN Charter and it will enhance the reputation of the country throughout the world.

While Pakistan and US troops start pulling out from Somalia in March the government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has shown its interest to US Defence Secretary that Pakistan is ready to send more troops to Bosnia in the UN Protection Forces (UNPROFOR). "We are not withdrawing troops from Bosnia, but we will prefer to send more troops and had recently suggested that total strength of UNPROFOR should be increased from 23,000 to 35,000," disclosed officials privy to these consultations.

The increase in the strength of UNPROFOR, said the sources, is also essential if the peace plan is to be enforced in Bosnia. "Not only this, Pakistan has also suggested that light equipment with UNPROFOR in Bosnia should be upgraded and there should be new rules of engagement."

Presently, the UNPROFOR troops, according to information reaching here, are facing humiliation because of the existing rules of engagement. "The new rules of engagement should include the defence of the population and enclaves." The countries which had despatched their troops to Bosnia for UNPROFOR are also raising the demand that "we need general mandate," it was learnt.

The sources, however, said that as a concept Pakistan is now evolving its own strategy for increased participation in the international peacekeeping exercise. "Discussion on this subject has already taken place at various forums and the final strategy will emerge shortly, following which Pakistan, which at present is the largest contributor in these efforts, will go all out to assist the UN in the peacekeeping operations to a much greater extent."

Currently, almost 10,000 Pakistani troops are participating in UN peacekeeping operations at various locations. These include Somalia, Bosnia, Angola, Liberia, Georgia and Kuwait. However, the US is the largest financial contributor and the largest supporter in terms of logistic and equipment.

As the US Defence Secretary stated, the United States has established criteria by which it would consider sending peacekeeping forces. These include such considerations as the extent to which the issue is in the national security of the US, the extent to which peacekeeping forces have a reasonable chance of success, the nature of the organisation of the peacekeeping command, the control of peacekeeping forces and finally, where there is some kind of plausible exit strategy.

The US has also urged the UN to take into account similar criteria in their consideration. "Whether or not US troops are there, the US cares very much about UN deployment of peacekeeping forces, first because of the importance to world security, of having credible UN peacekeeping operation, and, secondly, because the cost of peacekeeping operations, whether or not US troops are there, is borne more than 30 percent, by the US," said the US Defence Secretary, recently.

Editorial Doubts Economic Reforms Are 'Effective'

BK1201055195 Islamabad THE NATION in English 11 Jan 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Industrial Investment"]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chairman Board of Investment (BOI) Mr Safdar A Zaidi, while addressing a seminar titled "Matching Investment Opportunities and Industrial Relations in the Asia-Pacific region" organised by ESCAP [Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific] and BOI, linked what he termed were radical economic reforms of the present government with reinforcing links with the rest of the world in general and the Asian region in particular. The radical economic reforms he highlighted were dismantling regulatory controls with a view to promoting a free market system and privatisation of state owned industries. Mr Zaidi also mentioned the success of the present government in attracting foreign investment in the energy sector and stated that several Japanese, Korean and other nations' companies had already evinced an interest in investing in Pakistan, either directly or through joint ventures. He also stated that many foreign companies operating in Pakistan are not only transferrring technology from their parent company but are also earning valuable foreign exchange through exports.

A look at the commodities manufactured in Pakistan shows that we are heavily reliant on cotton and its ancillary industry for earning foreign exchange and that the bulk of our productive activity uses farm output as basic raw material. Thus in a bad monsoon year the farm sector cannot deliver and, therefore, the industrial sector has either to import or failing that, lower its value-adding potential. In a bad monsoon year the government feels obliged to intervene in the pricing of what it deems are essential commodities, thus seriously impairing the ability of a market system to rectify the supply shortage in the long run. At the same time the government, while negotiating with IMF/World Bank, has little option but to accept certain aid conditionalities which have invariably implied higher user charges for the people of Pakistan and inflation has been fuelled as a consequence. Thus the claim by Mr Zaidi that the economic reforms of the present government designed to dismantle regulatory controls have proved effective is not a fact in reality. The present government has attracted foreign investment in the form of Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) but so far out of total signed MOUs worth $15 billion, $8 billion worth of one MOU is in jeopardy. The year 1994-95 witnessed an unprecedented rise in business-government confrontation and local businesses are still lamenting the 'unsoundness' of several policies. It is not time for complacency and one hopes that Mr Zaidi takes heed of all the impediments to investment, local as well as foreign.

Eurodollar Bonds Raise $150 Million

BK1701100295 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 17 Jan 95 p 5

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi (AFP)—By raising $150 million through its first ever sovereign bond of five-year maturity in Eurodollar market with 144-A tranche (for qualified institutional buyers in USA). Pakistan has made its presence felt in the international capital market, official sources said here.

Pakistan authorities have been congratulated by no less an International Investment Bank than Salomon Brothers in Pakistan for making such an aggressive and positive move at this time.

In fact in this area, the sources said Pakistan has taken lead over several other countries including India.

The sources said in fact the successful floatation of bond is an expression of international confidence in Pakistan's macro-economic management.

Considering Pakistan's credit rating, the price of the bond at 385 basis points above the five-year US treasury rate has been quite favourable, particularly at a time when sovereign bonds of Turkey and Argentina are selling at much above 400 basis points in the secondary market.

The raising of money through sovereign bond is also a welcome move from the viewpoint of corporate sector in Pakistan who have been looking forward to the establishment of benchmark which incidentally will emerge in the trading of the bond in the secondary market, for going into the international capital market to float their own bonds.

As is well-known, because of its comfortable level of reserves, Pakistan did not need money to finance its balance of payments needs. Instead the principal objectives of floating this bond have been to improve the maturity profile of Pakistan's external abilities, to set a bench-mark for the private sector to raise money in the international capital market and to put Pakistan's name in the Eurodollar and other segments of international market.

All these objectives have been achieved, it added.

Gwadar Developing as Central Asian Trade Link

BK1701142095 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 17 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Every inch of Pakistan is sacred to us and we have been given a mandate by the people to safeguard its integrity and solidarity at all cost. This was stated by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who was talking to members of Parliament from different provinces who called on her today. The prime minister reiterated that her government is developing Gwadar as Central Asian trade route which provides the shortest land approach to sea for Central Asian states, which would increase the strategic importance of Pakistan. The people's elected representatives condemned disinformation through print media as malicious, inaccurate, instigated by those political pretenders who are working against longterm interests of Pakistan.

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The prime minister was assured by the opinion leaders from all over the country that they will zealously continue supporting her war against illiteracy, poverty, unemployment, corruption, and nepotism. [passage omitted]

Uzbekistan Signs Draft Taxation Pact

BK1901154095 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan and Uzbekistan today signed a draft agreement to avoid double taxation for promoting trade relations between the two countries. The agreement was initialed by deputy chairman of the state tax committee on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Mr. (Sattarov), and member of the Income Tax, CBR [Central Board of Revenue], Mr. Iqbal Farid, on behalf of the Government of Pakistan. The agreement for the avoidance of double taxation between the two countries would be signed within two months.

UAE President Meets With Bhutto

BK1301142695 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 13 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Islamabad today, Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] have held wide-ranging talks to promote bilateral relations and on regional and international situation. The UAE delegation was led by its president, Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, and Pakistan side was headed by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. During the talks, the UAE president was briefed about the increasing genocide of innocent Kashmiri people at the hands of Indian occupation forces. PTV diplomatic correspondent reports that the UAE has always supported Pakistan's position on Kashmir. During the talks, the need for identifying areas for cooperation in economic and other fields were also stressed.

The president, Mr. Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, hosted a banquet in Islamabad in honor of the president of the United Arab Emirates, Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad, members of the entourage of Shaykh Zayid, some federal ministers, members of the Parliament, and diplomats attended the dinner.

The president of the United Arab Emirates, Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, was given a hearty send off when he left Islamabad after a two-day official visit to Pakistan. President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari and Prime Minister Bhutto bade him farewell at the airport. Before boarding his special aircraft, the UAE president shook hands with the long line of dignitaries. Those present at the airport to see off Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan included speaker of the National Assembly, Syed Yusuf Reza Gilani; the governor of Punjab, Chaudhry Altaf Hussain; the Punjab chief minister, Mian Manzoor Ahmad Wattoo; federal ministers; and representatives of diplomatic corps. National anthems of UAE and Pakistan were played. The air chief, the naval chief, and representative of the chief of the Army Staff were also present on the occasion. Twenty-one guns boomed as the president of UAE boarded his plane.

Sikhs Cited on Torture of Kashmiris in Punjab

BK2001013995 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 19 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan has expressed concern over the reports of systematic torture and murder perpetrated against the Kashmiris by the Indian Government in east Punjab jails and called for a thorough investigation by international human rights organizations.

In a briefing in Islamabad today, a Foreign Office spokesman referred to the press reports in which Sikh leaders have attested that there are a large number of Kashmiris in jails in the Indian state of Punjab. Sikh leaders said that these persons are being subjected to torture with the active involvement of the government of Indian Punjab. The spokesman pointed out that these press reports have concluded that during the past 12 months, 2,000 Kashmiri freedom fighters have been apprehended and 1,300 belonging to Hizbul Mujahideen have been murdered. He hoped the world community, especially those countries which champion the cause of human rights, will take action to prevent the daily brutalities being perpetrated on the innocent children, women and men in occupied Kashmir.

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